

Soviet deal depends on Nato retreat over cruise Andropov offers to destroy SS20s moved from Europe

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov has offered to "liquidate a considerable number" of Soviet SS20 missiles as part of an overall agreement on the reduction of medium-range missiles in Europe.

His move came in an interview in today's issue of Pravda, released in advance by Tass. He said that provided the US did not deploy new missiles in Europe in December, the Soviet Union would reduce the number of medium-range missiles in Europe to the level equal to the number of missiles of Britain and France.

In doing so it would "liquidate all the missiles to be reduced", including a "considerable number of the most modern missiles, known in the West as SS20s".

Mr Andropov said his offer showed that Nato allegations that Russia would merely re-locate its missiles in the Soviet far east were "totally groundless".

Diplomats said the Kremlin had previously only undertaken to remove its missiles beyond the Urals, not to destroy them.

Mr Andropov described his latest initiative as being of "exceptional importance" and a

"new manifestation of good will" by the Soviet Union.

Western diplomats commented that although the offer held out some hope of progress at the Geneva talks, which resume on September 6, it was still conditional on a Nato agreement not to deploy cruise and Pershing 2 weapons and on the inclusion of British and French missiles in the talks.

Both Soviet standpoints have been rejected repeatedly by the Western powers. Mr Andropov offered last December to balance medium-range missiles against the nuclear forces of Britain and France, which Nato regards as independent deterrents.

He subsequently clarified this to mean that Moscow would count missile warheads rather than launchers, a boon of cooperation at Geneva, since SS20s have three independently-targeted warheads.

In the Pravda interview Mr Andropov dismissed claims that Washington had shown flexibility at Geneva, saying this was a "mockery of common sense".

If Russia reduced its medium-range missiles while allowing Nato to move over missiles into Europe to balance against the remaining Soviet rockets "we would not only

have unilaterally reduced our arsenal... but also have given our blessing to new American missiles targeted against us and our allies".

The Soviet leader gave no hint of what measures Moscow would take if the Geneva talks broke down and the Nato deployments went ahead in December.

Mr Andropov said an agreement at Geneva was still possible. One would not have to wait long if Nato was prepared for an agreement on equal terms, he said.

He indicated that he saw no reason to include China or Japan in the talks, since missile deployments in the eastern part of Russia were "completely irrelevant" to their subject matter.

Diplomats said further Soviet manoeuvring could be expected before the early resumption of the Geneva talks requested by Moscow.

The offer to destroy some SS20s was an advance on the position taken in April by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, who said that whether SS20s would be relocated or destroyed would be a matter for negotiation.

Japan rearms, page 4 Malta sidestepped, page 9 Leading article, page 9



Man and missile: President Yuri Andropov and the SS20, a "considerable number" of which he has promised to destroy.

Vauxhall men to block imports

From Our Correspondent Liverpool

Vauxhall car workers have launched a nationwide operation to stop the import of General Motors vehicles in an attempt to force the company to increase a pay offer.

The action comes after union leaders representing men at the Company's plants in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, and Bedford rejected a 5 per cent offer.

After Thursday's stoppage by 1,800 Transport and General Workers' Union members at Ellesmere which cost £450,000 in lost production, 2,400 Amalgamated Union of engineering Workers men walked out on strike yesterday after a meeting bringing production to a halt.

The two sets of workers both voted unanimously to boycott further pay talks with the company, and organize a block on imports of General Motors vehicles. They are demanding £25 across the board.

The action will affect half of Vauxhall's 15 per cent share of the market, and include the Nova, Carlton and the entire Opel range, which are built in Spain and West Germany.

The TGWU convenor at Ellesmere Port, Mr John Farrell, said: "Talks have already begun at executive level in the union to organize the blockade."

"Support is guaranteed and we will be hitting the company where they are most profitable. General Motors makes £1,000 more profit on a foreign-made Astra than one made in Britain."

"They have seriously underestimated the intelligence of the workforce at Ellesmere Port. For the past year they have been calling us supermen because we have achieved record efficiency and productivity levels while they make money hand over fist."

"We have kept pace with Germany and the massive investment there, but a 5 per cent offer is the last straw. An assembly line worker here gets £107 basic before stoppages. In Germany the equivalent is £180."

"The men are very very angry and if it means going down to the dock gates to stop the imports ourselves we are prepared to do that and go."

A company spokesman said the afternoon walkout at Ellesmere Port by 2,400 AUEW workers had cost 85 cars, but it expected things back to normal for today's overtime shift.

At Luton the workers went home for an extended holiday weekend after expressing disgust at the pay offer.

The company document told the workers that the emphasis in the offer was in maintaining job security.

"Times are hard on the Bedford side of the business and are likely to remain so for several years. This just cannot be eliminated from the total picture."

Monday

Feud... Salman Rushdie, Booker Prize winner for his novel of India, Midnight's Children, has focused his new book on Pakistan, against the background of the feud between President Zia and executed Prime Minister Bhutto. As Karachi erupts again, Spectrum presents the first of three extracts from Shame, to be published next month.



... for Sport The start of the football season, the Fourth Test, the Dutch Grand Prix, athletics in Cologne, 11 race meetings, showjumping at Hickstead - it's the biggest sporting weekend of the year. Here today... Modern Times doggedly pursues the delights of greyhound racing.

Pound slips against the dollar

The pound lost ground against a strong dollar yesterday, slipping 63 points to close at \$1,501.5, having fallen below \$1.50 at one stage.

However, it recovered against continental currencies Page 11

Court challenge on 'open skies'

The High Court has granted British Airways the right to challenge the Government's "open skies" policy designed to encourage airline competition. A hearing is expected in October Page 2

Escape control

After discovering a warren of escape tunnels under a camp housing Arab prisoners at Ansar, south Lebanon, the Israeli Army has moved all 3,000 inmates to a temporary compound until a permanent camp is completed Page 6

Cardinal ill

Cardinal Terence Cooke, aged 62, Archbishop of New York, is terminally ill with leukaemia and could die within "a matter of months", the archdiocese announced.

Angola mission

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, UN Secretary General, met a bizarre reception in Luanda, Angola, as he arrived for talks on Namibia Page 6

Petrol stamps

Trading stamps which can be redeemed against package holidays are to be offered at 400 garages and filling stations in Wales and the West Country Page 3

Jails threat

Prison officers in Northern Ireland are threatening an overtime ban which will mean police being drafted in on Monday to run jails. Kidnap victim freed Page 2

Scientific talks

The meetings on the last day of the conference on the British Association for the Advancement of Science are reported on page 4.

Sind violence

All police leave has been cancelled in Sind province as the Pakistani authorities prepare for a possible third week of violent demonstrations Page 6

Cook triumphs

Spin bowler Nick Cook put England in a commanding position in the fourth Cornhill Test match yesterday as he cut through the New Zealand first innings Report, page 16

Leader page 9 Letters: On BAOR, from Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch, and Mr M Chichester, Lord's pictures, from Mr E W Swanton. Leading articles: Mr Steel and the Liberals; Madrid conference; British earthquakes. Features, page 8 The Tolstoy in Stalin's pocket; Roy Strong takes a trunk route and Peter Nichols takes the train.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Architecture, Arts, Business, Court, Crossword, Diary. Rows: 2-4, 4-6, 14, 15, 11-15, 10, 20, 8, 8.

John Brown to make 500 redundant

By Andrew Cornelius

John Brown, the troubled engineering group, yesterday announced that 500 employees are to be made redundant among the 1,700 at its gas turbine division at Clydebank.

The company said this was because of reduced demand in the international power-generation market. Detailed discussion on the redundancies will begin next week.

The news comes after the collapse of a £30m deal to sell the John Brown Engineering gas-turbine division to Hawker Siddeley. The company said that it foresees a good future for the business with the reduced workforce.

Clydebank employees were given a warning of redundancies at a meeting several weeks ago. Mr John Smith, MP for Monkland East and Energy Spokesman for the Labour Party, fears the company might go under after the collapse of the negotiations with Hawker Siddeley. He believes the Government should take an interest in its future to prevent this.

However, the company said the talks with Hawker Siddeley broke down because of a failure to agree on its future direction, not because it is unprofitable.

The John Brown group has debts of £105m and it expected the disposal of the gas-turbine division would reduce borrowings.

Miners vote to accept closure

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Coal industry leaders were confident last night that their swift action in closing two pits had defused any threatened militancy after miners at the doomed Cardowan colliery, near Glasgow, voted decisively against taking industrial action.

The 3-2 (328-195) vote in a secret ballot at Cardowan influenced a later meeting of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which was called to discuss the closure of the Brynllyfwrth pit, near Swansea. This offered a muted "invitation" to the men at the pit to back industrial action when they meet next Wednesday.

National Coal Board (NCB) officials decided on a quick closure of the two mines, which together employ 1,400 miners, after rejecting final appeals by the NUM. Production at Cardowan ceased last night and salvage work will start on Monday.

Cardowan, the last remaining pit in Lanarkshire was earmarked for closure by the NCB because of geological difficulties, and a collapse in markets that meant the pit was heading for a £10m loss this year.

Miners have been offered redundancy, early retirement or offered jobs in the coalfield, with about 150 of the 800 at the pit being kept on for the salvage work. The NCB said last night that it was pleased by the vote and would now concentrate on relocating miners to other jobs.

Miners with up to 35 years' service could qualify for £25,000 pay-offs with about £100 a week until they reach retirement age.

A special meeting of the South Wales NUM executive heard the Cardowan vote before taking its decision and was influenced by the news from Scotland, according to Mr Emyln Williams, the South Wales union president.

He said that if the 639 Brynllyfwrth miners call out Wednesday for industrial action, they will have full union backing.

Mr Emyln Williams: Miners' action will be backed

Shopkeeper's 17 'disasters'

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A few weeks after that, it caught fire and was then stolen on four different occasions, each time being returned even more badly damaged. Twice, a lorry dumped its entire load on his bonnet.

He bought a cement mixer to do repairs on his house, only it was crushed by a car whose driver had lost control.

Even his billiard table was smashed to bits after being dropped by a removal firm. At around the same time, he suffered his fourteenth bone fracture while playing rugby.

Last November, his chimney and part of his roof were blown off. Then, in March this year, he was subjected to long hours of questioning by the police, after a professor committed suicide in the cellar of his shop. Finally, a large part of his woods were destroyed by fire this summer.

"From now on, I'm no longer going to walk under ladders, and when I see a black cat, I'll cross to the other side of the road. With such bad luck one can no longer afford to make a mistake," M Acheriaux said.

Illingworth wants to quit Yorkshire fray

By Richard Streeton

Yorkshire cricket was threatened with its biggest turmoil so far when Raymond Illingworth offered to resign as captain and manager yesterday. He was sick and tired, he said, of the "aggro" he and his family have had since returning to the county, and he specifically mentioned in this context the pro-Boycott faction.

"If Yorkshire will pay me up on my contract I will leave now," he said at Scarborough before the start of Yorkshire's match with Gloucestershire. "I do not see why I should be playing first-class cricket at 51 to try to help Yorkshire and at the same time have to put up

with a constant barrage of attacks from Boycott supporters."

Illingworth's outburst followed a demand from Sid Fielden, a Yorkshire committee member and Barnsley detective sergeant, that the club's general committee investigate what was termed, in a letter to Yorkshire's chairman, Michael Crawford, "an unsolicited attack on Boycott". This was a reference to Illingworth's action in reporting Boycott to the club for slow scoring in a game at Cheltenham 10 days ago.

Boycott was later reprimanded by Yorkshire's so-called peacekeeping committee, with a constant barrage of attacks from Boycott supporters. Illingworth's outburst followed a demand from Sid Fielden, a Yorkshire committee member and Barnsley detective sergeant, that the club's general committee investigate what was termed, in a letter to Yorkshire's chairman, Michael Crawford, "an unsolicited attack on Boycott". This was a reference to Illingworth's action in reporting Boycott to the club for slow scoring in a game at Cheltenham 10 days ago. Boycott was later reprimanded by Yorkshire's so-called peacekeeping committee,

Challenge yachts get 'all clear'

From David Miller Newport, Rhode Island

The New York Yacht Club yesterday climbed down on all controversial points involving the Australian and British yachts involved in the America's Cup challenge series elimination finals to commence tomorrow.

A statement issued by Mr Robert Stooe, the commodore of the prestigious NYCC, which has held the trophy for 130 years, said that all matters were resolved.

This statement brings to a close a period of sustained hostility conducted by NYCC, against the foreign challengers, which has caused more ill-feeling than any of the controversies which have been a feature of the competition down the years.

It said questions relating to the keels of Australia II and Victory '83, and their design, had been resolved. The Americans had protested that the winged keel of the Australian yacht, and its partial copy in the British, gave the boats an illegal rating.

"We have now received verification from the international Yacht Racing Union that an interpretative ruling respecting the design of the British keel was issued in 1982," Mr Stooe said. "That ruling under the IYR regulations is controlling for the 1983 match and the NYCC accepts it as such - also that the ruling applies to the keel of Australia II."

Elimination races page 15

Steel attacked over dictatorial approach

By Anthony Berins, Political Correspondent

One of Mr David Steel's prime adversaries in his confrontation with Liberal activists yesterday accused his leader of adopting a "dictatorial, Thatcher-type" approach to the party.

Mr Tooy Greaves, full-time organizing secretary for the Association of Liberal Councilors, said that in the past, when the party had been smaller, the leader had been elevated out of all proportion to the point at which he had been regarded as a Prime Ministerial figure within the party.

But, Mr Greaves commented in an interview on BBC radio's World at One programme: "Liberalism is about cooperation, developing a consensus and leadership by example and motivation, and not the dictatorial Thatcher-type leadership."

"The problem is that we have got to match the two together. The time has come to develop a much more cooperative leadership."

In a letter this week to the 16 other Liberal MPs, Mr Steel illustrated complaints about party indiscipline and "sloppiness" by citing a bulletin produced by the association during the general election.

According to Mr Steel, when the party's General Election committee attempted to block publication of the bulletin, which highlighted Alliance policy deviations from the Liberal line, they were told that Mr Greaves had threatened to resign and to go on television to denounce the Alliance package.

Mr Steel demands in his confidential letter: "Has he been fired for disgraceful conduct?"

Mr Greaves said yesterday: "I don't know where he gets this from. There was never any question of the publication of that mailing being stopped. It was never discussed."

Mr Steel's letter also provoked stern criticism yesterday from some of his parliamentary colleagues, Mr Cyril Smith, MP for Rochdale, who was criticized for refusing a portfolio post in the Liberal team, said that one of the reasons why he was pushing for the election of a deputy leader was that there should be greater consultation within the parliamentary party.

"No one works harder than David Steel," Mr Smith said. "The problem is that he hasn't the time to do the consultation. His contact with colleagues is very limited indeed."

Yet when Mr Steel had dealt with the deputy leadership and chairmanship possibilities in his letter, Mr Smith said he had referred to the danger of creating more "chiefs than Indians."

The tone of Mr Steel's letter is summed up in just three sentences. He says: "Those who want us just to play politics had better clear out now."

"I am certainly willing and indeed keen to continue as leader, but only on the basis that the party itself is gearing its efforts to offering an alternative government to Mrs Thatcher at the next general election."

"If it widens to porter about the the sidles, I will be happy to remain as a loyal member, but not to continue indefinitely as leader."

Leading article, page 9

Holidaymakers see pilot's death plunge

An RAF pilot died yesterday after guiding his stricken jet away from hundreds of holidaymakers on the east coast.

Witnesses said that the aircraft, from RAF Binbrook in Lincolnshire, had made several low-level passes over the beach when its engines failed.

An RAF spokesman said that the pilot's name would not be released until word of kin had been informed. Meanwhile, Britain looked all set for its busiest Bank Holiday on the roads, with millions of people heading for the coast, the Automobile Association predicted yesterday.

With forecasters promising good weather almost everywhere, roads to the seaside and other tourist centres were already jammed last night. "We are in for an old-fashioned bumper-to-bumper weekend", said an AA spokesman.

British Rail is also expecting considerable demand, and is running 300 extra trains over the Bank Holiday.

The warm British weather seems to be having some unusual repercussions. Thousands of Britons are heading for the Continent, apparently in search of cool breezes.

The British Airports Authority said it expected about 560,000 passengers through Heathrow and Gatwick over the weekend. A British Airways official said: "It is hot over here, but there still seem to be a lot of people who want to get away from it all." They could be seeking cooler weather, he suggested. Weekend temperatures in Britain should be in the high 70s F.

More than 150 police reinforcements were being drafted on to the Isle of Wight yesterday to help cope with an expected influx of 8,000 "Mods". All island police leave has been cancelled for the Mods' annual rally.

TV-am takes peak breakfast ratings lead

TV-am's ratings revolution, induced by Roland Rat, pushed the commercial station in front of its BBC rival, Breakfast Time, for the first time during peak breakfast viewing last week.

Figures produced by BARB, the independent ratings analysts, gave TV-am a peak audience of 1.2 million before 9am, 100,000 more than the BBC programme.

Mr Greg Dyke, TV-am's editor-in-chief, acknowledged that the lead was due to the station's popularity with schoolchildren, largely through the puppet character, Roland Rat.

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'Open skies' policy faces challenge in court from British Airways

By David Nicholson-Lord

British Airways yesterday was given the right to challenge in court the Government's "open skies" policy, designed to open the state airline's services to private competition.

At a hearing in the High Court, BA was given permission to seek judicial review of the Civil Aviation Authority's decision earlier this month to allow British Midland Airways a share of the shuttle route between Heathrow and Belfast. The BMA service would undercut BA's shuttle by £3.50 per journey.

Full hearing of the case is not expected until early October, when BMA was planning to start its shuttle. The private airlines, which unsuccessfully joined forces with the CAA in court yesterday to prevent BA's application, said its service would go ahead as planned.

A BMA spokesman said there would be further recourse to the courts if the state airline dragged its feet. "We shall exercise our rights to make further applications to the courts if necessary to make them get a move on with their case", he added.

Yesterday's legal move by BA had attracted widespread attention because it by-passed the

established channel of appeal against the CAA's decision to Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Transport. He was reported to be embarrassed by the airline's apparent challenge to the Government's policy, only two years before it is due for privatization.

Mr John Perry, BA's director of public affairs, said after the hearing that the Department of Transport had been kept informed and denied that BA's move had embarrassed the Government. "All civil aviation throughout the world is covered by law and Government regulations. We are concerned with a point of law."

"If the airports are going to be moved in the middle of the game then we need to know what is happening."

Mr Justice Nolan granted the application after Mr Peter Scott, QC, claimed that the CAA had wrongly interpreted the Civil Aviation Act, 1982, which embodies the "open skies" Act of 1980.

Mr Scott said that the CAA had read section four and six of the Act as "imposing a bias in favour of competition." This was not the case.

"The Act is not saying that where practicable competition

should be introduced. This is a balancing exercise. It is of crucial importance when one is dealing with an air transport licence on route where another operator has already been licensed to have regard to the fact that they will have incurred very substantial expenses in providing facilities."

By bringing in a second operator "you are undoubtedly likely to cause economic problems for existing users", he said.

Even if BA appealed through the normal channels to Mr King, this would not clear up the point of law at issue and would result in continued uncertainty, Mr Scott added.

BA says the new BMA shuttle would take away more than one third of its passengers, turn its shuttle network into loss and threaten the Belfast service with closure. BMA has already taken one-third of the state airline's customers on the Edinburgh and Glasgow shuttles while Dan-Air is proposing to operate a shuttle between London and Manchester.

The judge yesterday described the application as of "undoubted urgency" and "importance, both commercially and to the travelling public."



Safety home: Mrs Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, seen yesterday after being reunited with Mr Henry Meenan, her father, in Belfast.

Kidnap wife freed as tactics change against informers

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The republican paramilitaries' attempt to force informants to retract evidence by kidnapping their relatives appears to be failing with the release yesterday of Mrs Elizabeth Kirkpatrick and speculation that the only remaining hostage will be freed this weekend.

Mrs Kirkpatrick reappeared in circumstances as bizarre as her abduction almost four months ago by the outlawed Irish National Liberation Army (IRA) and without Mr Henry Kirkpatrick, her husband, apparently agreeing to retract evidence implicating 18 people in terrorist crimes.

If Mr Patrick Gilmour, who was taken from his home in Londonderry nine months ago by the Provisional IRA in a bid to stop his son giving evidence, is released this weekend, it will coincide with a new direction in the republican movement's "anti-informer" campaign.

Tomorrow a meeting will be held in west Belfast to launch a movement which will involve mass street demonstrations similar to the anti-H block protests three years ago.

Committees will be formed of relatives of people charged on the evidence of informers and support will be sought from international jurists, the legal profession and political groups, who will lobby all sections of opinion against the use of informers.

But certain groups and people would have been embarrassed to support a campaign while people were being kidnapped.

Father Denis Paul, who played an important role in securing Mrs Kirkpatrick's release, said: "I am very opposed to supergrasses, which are a further perversion of the rather bad legal system, but people can say little about it when people are being kidnapped. I hope Mr Gilmour will be released this weekend."

The release of Mrs Kirkpatrick, aged 27, ended a 105-day ordeal for her family, and came eight days after her husband's stepfather and half sister, who were also kidnapped and threatened with execution by INLA, were freed when Irish

Private telephone system for Kodak

By John Lawless

Work on the installation of Britain's first private national telephone network began this month when Kodak set up exchanges at six of its offices.

"Our four sales centres, at Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, have had the equipment installed", a spokesman for the photographic supplies company said yesterday, "as have the chemical division at Kirby, Liverpool, and our northern distribution centre at Manchester."

"Our main distribution centre at Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire) will join the new system next month, and a total of 13 sites will be linked by August 1984."

The Kodak system is the first to be commissioned since the Government ended British Telecom's monopoly over the telephone networks.

Telephone Rentals - which is leasing the equipment, supplied by Plessey, under a 10-year contract at £500,000 a year - said yesterday that it has signed a comparable deal with National Westminster Bank.

That will also link 13 of the bank's main offices throughout the country, but with the equipment being bought outright for £2.5m.

When Kodak's system is fully operational, 250,000 calls will be made each week between 5,000 telephone sets distributed throughout the country.

Only one extension is required for each desk, though, because the same equipment

will be used to link into British Telecom's national and international networks. Those are the only calls Kodak will pay for.

Kodak is making no guesses about how much it will save on telephone calls.

Its demand for information-switching capacity is growing so fast that it has specified a system that can send computer data from one centre to another (using high-speed Megastream II lines rented from British Telecom to form private circuits, capable of carrying 64,000 bits per second).

However, Kodak, which receives 60 per cent of its orders over the telephone, says the most important benefit will be to customers. "In future", said the spokesman, "they will face minimal or no delays. The system will also assist in the processing of orders and stock control."

For employees, dialling is much easier. "In fact, the system is completely digital, with an integrated numbering scheme." Telephone Rentals said. "That means that all you have to do is press three numbers on a key-pad for a person's desk, and a fourth identifying their office location."

The Telephone Rentals system is in no way a competitor to Mercury, which is to challenge British Telecom as an independent provider of lines to important cities and towns.

Jobs offer ends yard dispute

Highland Fabricators management says production will resume on Monday at the oil platform yard at Nigg near Inverness. The company has offered jobs to 1,600 of the 2,000 men dismissed last week in an unofficial dispute over the withdrawal of free orange juice supplied during hot weather.

However, shop stewards at the yard say a mass picket will seek to turn back any workers accepting the management's offer of jobs.

The company initially planned to resume working tomorrow night but transport difficulties have forced the cancellation of the Sunday shift.

Management officials have been recruiting men at several job centres throughout the week. By Thursday, more than 400 had signed up and there was "considerable activity" at offices yesterday, a management spokesman claimed.

Only workers selected "on merit" have been offered their jobs back under new agreements that include the loss of free transport to and from work and shower facilities during working hours.

In return, the men have been promised a 4.5 per cent pay rise next year. The management says the new terms will save the company £1.4m a year.

However, officials of the unions involved, the engineers', the electricians' and the boiler-makers', have backed the men's insistence that all 2,000 workers must be rehired. The dispute remains unofficial, but recommendations to back the men will go before union executive meetings next week.

Mr Rab Wilson, convenor at the yard, said: "There will be no production on Monday because the lads have made a decision and we will make sure anyone who turns up will not enter the yard. The only way production will re-start is when we all go back."

Management, who say the terms for a return are not negotiable, held inconclusive meetings with union officials on Wednesday. Further meetings are scheduled for Friday in London.

Highland Fabricators is one year behind with a platform order for Conoco's Hutton Field.

A building programme for accommodation for crews and their families of Type-42 destroyers to be based at Rosyth is expected to provide many jobs.

Heffer warning on 'mole' witch-hunt

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Eric Heffer, the hard-left candidate for Labour's leadership, yesterday warned party members against the wave of attacks on Trotskyist "moles" in the Labour Party.

He said in a letter to party members that calls for witch-hunts against "so-called Reds" in industry and in the Labour Party smacked of McCarthyism.

"Certainly, we in Britain have not got to that stage yet", he said, "but the danger signs are there and this is the time for all true democrats to say enough is enough, before it is too late and the atmosphere develops into one of hysteria."

Mr Heffer pointed to the latest episode, in which some newspapers had attempted to undermine the party with reports of 1,000 "moles" infiltrating the Labour ranks.

He said: "As a socialist I have my adult life, over the years I have read in certain newspapers that the Labour Party was being infiltrated, that the constituency Labour parties were communist-dominated, or Trotskyist-influenced, and that a takeover was about to take place."

"I warn party members that the statements being made

today about moles are designed to damage the party and stop us from winning power at the next election.

"They are designed to frighten the people by painting a picture that bears no relation to the real situation."

But Mr Heffer added: "It is a long tradition that groups within the wider movement argue their case. Sometimes their arguments win the majority support, usually they do not."

He said that the party must strongly resist any attempt to undermine the tradition of argument within the party.

Labour Herald, the weekly newspaper which numbers Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, as one of its editors, attacked Mr Michael Meacher, the hard-left candidate for the party deputy leadership, for suggesting that the expulsion of Militant Tendency leaders might be allowed to stand.

The paper said in yesterday's editorial: "The left cannot afford to duck the issue. It must campaign for the reinstatement of the expelled members of Militant. So should Michael Meacher."

Hides found in hunt for rapist

Police searching woodlands in south London for a double rapist have unearthed an underground hideout which was probably used by the wanted man.

Det Supt Geoffrey Cooper, who is leading the hunt, said that the 14ft chamber was built with "military-style precision". It contained a single mattress, food, drink and even an air freshener. It was found when 150 officers searched the wood at Upper Belvedere, Bexley, the scene of two rapes in recent weeks.

A woman aged 33, was raped in front of her son, aged three, in broad daylight in the woods a week ago and a girl, aged 16, was raped 100 yards from the spot last month.

Officers from the Special Patrol Group, mounted police and dog handlers joined the search, which unearthed the tunnel, and a second, smaller hideout.

Police Constable Clifford Thomas discovered the tunnel when he heard a metallic noise while looking beneath a holly tree.

He brushed aside leaves and branches and found a piece of rusted corrugated iron which concealed a black door, bearing the number 122 and opening into the tunnel. The hideout was about 3ft deep and just long enough for the single mattress. It was littered with empty beer cans and plastic carrier bags. Clothes found near by are being analysed by forensic scientists.

Det Supt Cooper said that the hideout could only have been constructed by someone with a military training. The hideout was of "SAS standard". "We would never have found the hides but for the blanket search of the woods", Mr Cooper said.

The man is described as 5ft 8in tall, aged about 25, with short graying hair. He was wearing blue jeans and white shoes at the time of the second attack, and had an earring in his right ear.

Overcast selling prices
Agriculture 200-250, Bacon 100-110, Beef 100-110, Butter 100-110, Eggs 100-110, Fish 100-110, Fruit 100-110, Grains 100-110, Meat 100-110, Oil 100-110, Pork 100-110, Rice 100-110, Sugar 100-110, Tallow 100-110, Wheat 100-110, Wool 100-110, Yarn 100-110.

Doctors given warning on missing wife

By Rosemary Smith

Dr Robert Jones and the police detective who is leading the hunt for his wife, Mrs Diane Jones, have appealed to the medical profession to contact the police if she seeks treatment.

Any doctor who responds to the appeal could be disciplined by the British Medical Association. A spokesman said last night: "The B.M.A. does not want to warn doctors not to inform the police. Our standing ethical guidelines are that in general we advise doctors only to break confidence if they have an overriding duty to society, for example in the Yorkshire tipper case."

"Where a person has simply left home and doctors are told to look out for it is not the doctor's job to inform the police. Doctors may try and persuade the person to make contact, but people must feel that if they need medical treatment they can get help in confidence."

Dr Jones, who is going to Canada on a three-week holiday this weekend, made his appeal through the medical journal Doctor.

In his first appeal since his wife vanished five weeks ago, Dr Jones, aged 40, said: "Doctors should contact the police if they know something. I believe my wife does not want to be found. But she may have approached a GP somewhere, though it is more likely she will want tranquillizers than anti-natal care."

Det Supt Michael Ainsley, who is leading the search for Mrs Jones, also appealed in the journal for doctors to contact him if Mrs Jones approached them for treatment.

Mrs Jones disappeared on July 23 after returning home with her husband from a public house in Coggeshall, Essex.

Triumph name to be sold

From Arthur Omasa, Birmingham

The name of Triumph is to be sold to the highest bidder, the liquidators of the failed Meriden motor cycle cooperative said yesterday.

Debts left by the cooperative, established eight years ago with the support of Mr Wedgwood Benn totalling £3.8m. It was estimated that it had received about £10m support from public funds.

A meeting of 200 creditors at the factory, which is between Birmingham and Coventry, heard that unsecured creditors owed about £1.7m would receive nothing. It was hoped that the 22-acre site would be sold for housing for about £1m, and another £200,000 was expected from the sale of machinery.

All cash realized would go to the National Westminster Bank, which had secured its losses. There was a deficit of £2.6m.

The police have been asked to investigate the fate of a loan made to the cooperative last November by West Midlands County Council which totalled £365,000. It covered the intended manufacture of 250 motor cycles, each costing £1,460, to fulfil orders from the United States.

Mr Alistair Jones, one of the liquidators, of Bank Meadow Mitchell, said the council would receive about £50,000. Triumph USA, the cooperative's sales subsidiary had only five motor cycles as assets. The prospects of obtaining any money from that source were remote.

The Inland Revenue is claiming for unpaid income tax and national insurance contributions. Coventry Council is claiming £80,000 for unpaid rates.

The cooperative went into liquidation on August 6.

Journalists in holiday dispute return to work

By Ronald Fax

Three hundred journalists in Manchester who were dismissed by Express Newspapers on Wednesday in a dispute over Christmas working, were back at work yesterday after they accepted an agreement negotiated by officials of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and the management in London.

The dispute, which one journalist described as the last straw in increasingly bad relations between management and some editorial staff, on the Daily Star was over the journalists' traditional right to have Christmas Eve and Christmas Day off. The management has sought to buy out that right as a component of a 6.5 per cent pay increase. Part of the deal, amounting to 5 per cent, had been accepted by the company's journalists in London and Manchester.

Chinese held over 'protection money'

Detectives at Limerick in the Irish Republic were yesterday questioning 12 Chinese men arrested in armed police raids on a flat and a pool room in the city.

The raids followed the arrival in Limerick of a group of 10 London-based Chinese which led to police fears of violence involving the local Chinese community.

Some of those held by a raiding party of up to 20 Irish police officers were armed with iron bars, knives, pickaxes and clubs, a police source said.

Police are understood to have moved in on the Chinese in an effort to prevent clashes centring on a protection racket believed to be operating in Limerick.

Although they were apparently well armed, the Chinese offered no resistance to police and no one was hurt.

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حکومت الامم المتحدة

Holiday trading stamps may step up garage price war

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Trading stamps are to return to garage forecourts, at a time when the big oil companies are reviewing their marketing and pricing policy.

Anglo Petroleum, which has 400 filling stations in Wales and the West Country, are to give Holiday Stamps with petrol. The stamps can be redeemed only against package holidays offered by travel agents and companies that belong to the Association of British Travel Agents. The stamps can be used for British-based and foreign holidays and the average family motorist should be able to collect enough stamps to obtain £8 discount on a package holiday within 10 to 15 weeks.

Motorists will receive the stamps at between 1 and 3 per cent of the retail price of the goods they buy, depending on the contract price agreed between the petrol company and Holiday Stamps.

However, if other petrol chains adopt stamps, though

brand loyalty without resorting to price cuts and avoiding a full-scale return to giveaway offers.

A BP spokesman said: "The one certain thing that has emerged in recent months is that the motorist does not want to return to the wholesale special offer period of the 1970s. Price stability is important and brand loyalty has to be built up in other ways."

The trading stamps which are to be offered in Wales and the West Country will shortly spread to other retail outlets as well as bingo halls, cinemas, sports centres, public houses and off-licences if marketing plans are met, according to Mr David Price, chairman of Holiday Stamps Limited.

By restricting the redemption on stamps to high street travel agents and mail-order bookings, Holiday Stamps, which is based in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, has avoided the high cost of warehousing and shop premises that resulted in the demise of Green Shield Stamps

Comedian and wife clash over children

A courtroom battle erupted yesterday between the Scottish comedian, Billy Connolly and his estranged wife Iris over the custody of their two children.

Allegations were made by lawyers for each side at the court of session in Edinburgh where Mrs Connolly, 36, applied for interim custody of their son Jamie, aged 13 and their daughter Cara, aged nine.

The comedian's lawyer accused Mrs Connolly of being unfit to look after the children because of her heavy drinking, her associations with other men and the "disgusting state" of her house.

In turn, her agent claimed that Mr Connolly had spent three weeks in a monastery recovering from a drink problem last year.

Lord Robertson said that although the allegations made in court were serious, none of them had been put before the court in the divorce action. He made no order, and gave each side seven days to put their allegations in writing.

In the meantime the children will remain in London with their father who lives with the entertainer, Miss Pamela Stephenson.

Mrs Connolly was not represented in court at the start of the case and Lord Robertson said that he would grant the motion for interim custody. Seconds later Mr Charles Boag-Thomson, QC, appeared to oppose the move and the case went ahead.

Mr Boag-Thomson alleged that Mr Connolly was a wholly unsuitable person to have custody. "The position is that over a period of years this woman as taken to drinking to excess, being in a state of intoxication on numerous occasions during the day to an extent whereby the children have not been properly looked



Mr Connolly (right) with his lawyer, Mr Len Murray, yesterday

Drink-drive detective dismissed

A detective who escaped a driving ban after claiming he had been drinking under orders when he crashed his car was dismissed yesterday.

Det Constable Wyn Dunn, aged 38, was required to resign under the police discipline code after appearing before the Chief Constable of North Wales at Colwyn Bay.

The North Wales force is appealing against the decision of Mold magistrates not to ban Mr Dunn from driving when he was convicted of a drink-driving offence a month ago. It will ask the High Court if it was correct in law.

Mr Dunn was given a breath test after his unmarked police car hit a lamp post on the main coast road at Bagillt, Clwyd, in May.

When he appeared before the magistrates he escaped a driving ban because of what were described as exceptional circumstances surrounding the case. He was fined £120.

His solicitor told the court that Mr Dunn had been chosen because of his devotion to duty to take part in a special undercover operation in North Wales. Part of his brief was to drink and socialize in public houses and clubs in an attempt to get information.

The chairman of the magistrates, Mr Charles Quant, said special duties had put Mr Dunn at risk of drinking beyond the legal limit and he should not be disqualified.

Compulsive car thief told to talk to psychiatrist

A man described in court as a compulsive car thief was yesterday ordered to talk about his crimes with a psychiatrist.

David Crisison was shown cars, and then discussed with doctors why he wants to steal them.

It is believed to be the first time such treatment has been ordered for an offender, the court heard.

Crisison, aged 27, was caught trying to steal an off-duty policeman's car in Hyde Park last April. It was stated at Southwark Crown Court that the recorder, Mr Colin Hart-Loverton, told him: "You cannot seem to keep your hands off other people's cars; you are a compulsive car thief with a vast record."

"Normally I would send you to prison, but no sentence in the past has stopped you. I think this treatment would help. It is the first time it will be used to solve a criminal problem."

He wished Dr Barry Brown, a psychiatrist, luck with the experiment.

Crisison, of South Cromwell Road, south Kensington, west London, admitted attempted theft and was put on probation for a year on condition he sought help from Dr Brown.

After the hearing, Dr Brown said: "This treatment will work by showing him a car, and talking to him about why he wants to steal it. It is called exposure with response prevention."

He added that the treatment, which should be effective within two years, was widely used in psychiatry for compulsive problems.

'Sexist' lager firm barred from beer show

One of Britain's biggest breweries has been banned from taking part in the Great British Beer Festival in Birmingham next month because of a "sexist" promotion.

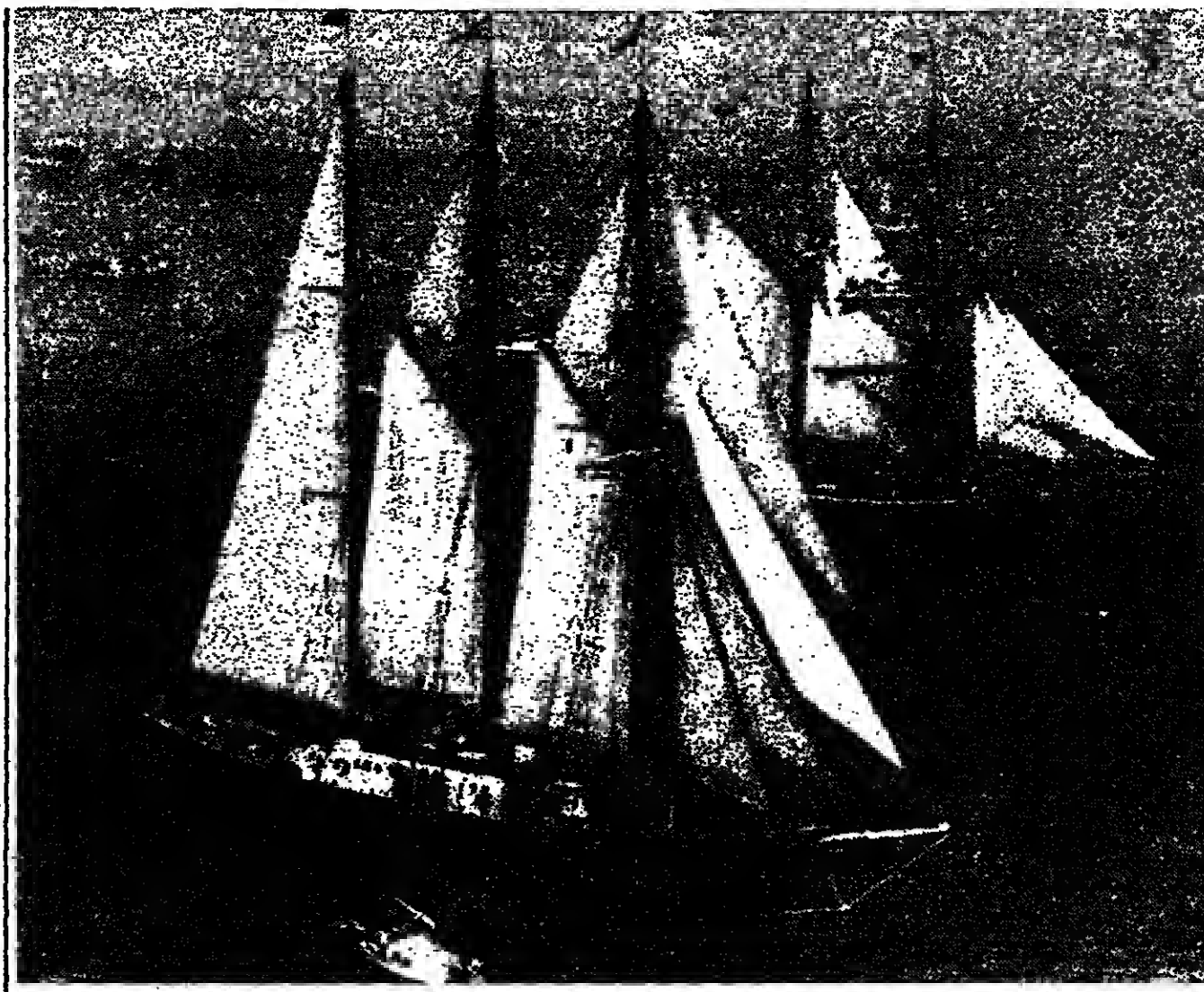
The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), which organizes the annual event, has ordered Watney Mann and Truman Brewery to stay away from the festival.

The magazine reports an incident when powered hang-glider travelling at 25mph, 1,000 feet above the Lancashire countryside was confronted by two Buccaneer jets flying at 480mph.

The glider pilot tilted his blue and yellow fabric wings at the jets to alert them and one of the Buccaneers broke away, having flown 70 feet over his head. The second jet passed only 300 feet away.

Another hang glider had reached 1700 feet over Wether Fell, near Hawes, North Yorkshire, when a Tornado aircraft flew underneath it.

An official of the association said: "There is usually a very good local relationship with the



Tall story: The Sir Winston Churchill in the foreground in close company with a competitor at the start of the Tall Ships Race at Weymouth, Dorset yesterday

Sick baby died after 'slip of pen'

A four-day-old child with meningitis, died in hospital after receiving 12 times the normal dose of antibiotic because of a doctor's "slip of a pen", an inquest was told yesterday.

Mrs Lorraine Jones, took her baby, Gemma, back to the Royal Berkshire Hospital at Reading 24 hours after arriving home from her confinement, and a doctor prescribed a 100mg dose of anti-biotics, four times the normal amount, because of her serious condition.

However, a total of 900mg was administered in three doses over 16 hours. Instead of 300, and the child died the next day.

Dr Heather Myscock told the inquest at Reading: "We were giving the maximum amount of the drug because of the seriousness of the illness and the high rate of mortality and risk of brain damage."

She said her written instructions to the nurses said 300mg of the drug should be administered every eight hours instead of every 24, as they should have done.

"It was a slip of the pen. That was a mistake. When I wrote that note, I had been on duty for 18 hours", Dr Myscock said.

Dr Stephen Cordner, a Home Office pathologist, said the child died from bacterial meningitis and an overdose of the antibiotic.

Mrs Jones, a qualified nurse, of Skye Close, Reading, said: "I realized that Gemma was very ill but I was told that after she had been on the anti-biotics for a few days she would probably recover."

The inquest jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Notting Hill clash youth jailed

Political activists had been behind a scheme to turn an area of Notting Hill in west London into a "no go area for police", a judge at the Central Criminal Court alleged yesterday.

Judge Martin, QC, spoke of incidents in All Saints Road, which some members of the local black community referred to as the "front line". He passed a sentence of 18 months youth custody on a youth who helped to make petrol bombs to throw at police.

Anthony Francis, aged 18, unemployed, of St Mark's Road, Notting Hill, was convicted earlier of conspiring to injure police in All Saints Road last April. Four other men were cleared on the judge's direction for lack of evidence of identification.

Judge Martin said that Francis had been drawn into the scheme by others of a "small minority" who lived in the area and wanted to turn All Saints Road into a "no go area for police".

They had encouraged the crowd for their "criminal purposes and political motives".

The judge told Francis: "You were helping to make petrol bombs to throw at police officers and people must realize that if they do things like this they will go to prison for a long time."

Francis was said to have been "sucked in" by older men during a day of mounting tension. He was arrested two weeks later at his home.

Judge Martin congratulated police for their actions. But he added that the case had revealed serious difficulties of identification and that the police should be more aware of identification evidence.

Mr Richard Hawkins, for the prosecution, said a "crowd gathered after police arrests for drug offences and tension mounted."

The crowd used bricks and pieces of concrete to build a barricade across the street and began arming themselves with petrol bombs after siphoning petrol from a car.

A police van drove across the barricade but burst its tyres in the process. The crowd on the other side scattered.

Mr Hawkins said: "Feelings had been running high in the area because members of the local community had complained about police victimization and harassment."

Francis said: "I did not really do anything. I just carried some bottles."

Grocers to plan bread price 'raids'

Street corner grocers are planning to buy cheap loaves from supermarkets and then resell them for the same price in their own shops, as retaliation in a price war.

The grocers claim they are being forced to subsidize the massive discounts which supermarket chains demand from bakeries and which allow them to sell a white sliced loaf for as little as 28p while corner shop customers can pay as much as 42p.

Independent grocers have to pay up to 10p more per loaf wholesale than the big chains.

The protest is being organized by the magazine *Independent Grocer*, which claims that 500 shopkeepers have already responded to the plan.

The magazine's assistant editor, Jenny Campbell said yesterday that "area commanders" were being appointed to plan the action. The date would be kept secret, but would probably be in mid-September.

Shopkeepers would put notices in their windows explaining why they were able to sell bread cheaply on the day.

"The multiple supermarkets have muscle power which allows them to dictate the terms under which they will buy from the bakeries, who can hardly refuse to accept as they won't lose volume sales", she said.

The projected protest is receiving some support from the cash-and-carry wholesale sector.

Mr Peter Martin, a cash-and-carry store owner in North Wales, said yesterday his bread supplies had been cut off after he started selling loaves from one bakery group at 28p - below his cost price. They were only resumed when he agreed to put the price back to between 31 and 32p.

"It's unfair", he said. "Similar loaves are being sold by supermarkets in the area at 28 1/2 to 29p. They are telling me I cannot sell at the price I want."

Mr Martin said he would protest to the Office of Fair Trading.

Council spending under control, leader says

From Arthur Osman, Leicester

The chief executive of Leicestershire County Council yesterday sharply attacked the Government's proposals to limit rates and reform the rating system. Mr Samuel Jones, said: "It is totally impossible to accept that local government spending is out of control." He said increasingly rigorous controls imposed by Whitehall had prevented that.

The council is controlled by Labour with the help of the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance.

Mr Jones said: "With a few notable and well-publicized exceptions, authorities have heeded government guidelines up to now, no matter how unrealistic Whitehall's targets might have been."

It is difficult, therefore, to appreciate the need to place on the statute book a wide-ranging measure to crack a relatively small nut when the ultimate sanction of the ballot box remains available."

Mr Jones said it would be folly not to recognize that the Government's proposals might well win popular support. But while local government might not be popular, its services were. The community had had ample experience of the limitations of consultative councils and other so-called watchdog groups in representing its interests before non-elected organizations.

The community should heed the dangers inherent in a centralized bureaucratic machine.

Mr Jones said: "I fear that ratepayers generally have still not got the message that when central government consistently and consciously squeezes targets and at the same time reduces the percentage grant it is prepared to make from central taxation, down from 66.5 per cent in 1975/76 to 52.8 per cent in 1983/84, then rates will rise."

Until that very simple fact is appreciated, local government will continue to have to bear with and endeavour to counter the odium of many of its ratepayers."

Boy hangs while trying to scare sister

While apparently attempting to "play dead" Brian Thornton, aged 15, accidentally hanged himself at his home in Mary Duncher Close, south London, Southwark Coroner's court heard yesterday.

His sister, Sharon Thornton, aged 14, who was distressed to appear in court, described in a statement how her brother, described as a "happy boy" who had ambitions to go to art school used to tie a scarf around his neck and put a blob of red ink at the corner of his mouth.

On August 10, she discovered her brother hanging from his bedroom door suspended on a dog's lead 3in above the ground.

Hang glider pilots fear jet collision

By Ronald Fax

RAF, who are informed whenever a hang gliding site becomes active.

"The danger is almost always from jets on low-flying missions from air stations further afield. They include British and American aircraft, and those from other nationalities. They practice low flying in areas that are legitimately used by hang gliding."

He added: "There are occasions when jets fly blind over hillsides below the 250ft minimum. Hang gliders are not always easy to spot by a pilot travelling at high speed and all the ingredients are there for a serious and tragic accident."

He said that a hang glider pilot could be killed if his aircraft were struck by the violent wake of a close-passing jet.

The association resents the implication in some military statements.

Mr Stan Abbott, editor of *Wings*, said: "These incidents have taken place in free airspace where hang gliders

Heart attack killed jailed drugs dealer

The post-mortem examination on Terence Sinclair, the New Zealand drugs dealer who died at Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight on August 12, revealed that he suffered a massive heart attack.

Sinclair, who was serving a life sentence, died a few days after he said he would reveal names and alleged connections between money from drug trafficking and the IRA arms purchasing fund. The examination, the second to be carried out, was conducted at the request of the New Zealand government.

Tests on the first examination, by the Isle of Wight Coroner, are expected to confirm the findings.

Sailing again

The oldest racing yacht in England was relaunched at Portsmouth yesterday after two years of restoration work. The 27-foot "Sorella" was built in 1885 at Itchen, Hampshire.

Greenham evictions possible

By Nicholas Timmins

Women peace campaigners at the Greenham Common cruise missile site in Berkshire expect an eviction attempt on their main camp today after bailiffs under police protection dismantled a smaller camp on local council land last night.

"We know they are coming tomorrow and they told us so" one of the women outside the US Air Force base said. The camp was later moved to Department of Transport land.

The women were taken by surprise as the bailiffs began clearing their Newbury District Council's new policy to remove "squatters". The protesters loaded up as many things as they could save and moved to a "safe house".

One woman said there had been many police at the camp but there had been no arrests.

The chief executive of the council, Mr Brian Therford, said that no personal belongings were being removed.

Newbury District Council is to decide next week whether to try again to evict members of the main Greenham Common peace camp after intensifying its efforts against satellite camps around the cruise missile base.

Mr Brian Therford, chief executive of the council, acknowledged yesterday that "we will never secure the total removal of it while part of it is on Department of Transport land", but he added: "If the district council is seen to be taking positive action then sooner or later the Department of Transport might feel equally courageous and remove the from their land."

The Department of Transport land is to be used for widening the entrance to the base in order to accommodate the 22-vehicle cruise missile convoys, the first of which is expected to be operational in December. However, Mr Therford said he did not expect work to start on the road-widening project until November or December at the earliest, and the department says it has no plans at present to repossess the land.

The council's main action recently has been aimed at evictions of camps at other sites.

"There has been a noticeable change in the sort of people coming to the camps in the last two or three weeks. There was a foreign visitor who brought dysentery, some hippy types arrived from South Wales and one had their baby removed because the social services people were concerned, and there have been some skin-heads", Mr Therford said.

Court time wasted, judge says

A judge yesterday criticized the time wasted in bringing a minor case to the Central Criminal Court in London while prisons were crowded with people waiting trial on more serious charges.

Judge Hazan's comments came after the discovery that a trial listed for the court involved a man who allegedly fraudulently used a small amount of electricity.

The man, whose name was not disclosed, had denied the charge and elected to go for trial. He was due to appear at Acton Crown Court in West London.

He failed to turn up yesterday, and the prosecution applied for a warrant to arrest him. The judge granted it.

Judge Hazan said: "The last thing I want is that remand prisons, which are filled to overflowing, should have remanded in custody someone who is charged with fraudulent extraction of electricity."

Power line avoids bees

A 66,000-volt electricity supply line is being diverted around hives owned by Mr Albert Hooper, aged 72, to avoid disturbing the insects.

He had complained about Midlands Electricity Board plans to site a pole near his hives at Chadwick Bank, near Stortport-on-Severn, Hereford and Worcester.

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There are many of these rather special holidays during September and October. And the first one is as close as September 3rd. Alternatively, there are also two QE2/Concorde packages to Washington. So as soon as possible, see your travel agent or contact Cunard at 8 Berkeley St. London W1X 6NR or phone the number below.

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Leftist talk on parrots

Nine out of ten parrots are left footed in the same way that most people were right handed.

Slow monitoring blamed for drug disasters

The slowness of the Government's system of monitoring harmful new drugs was to blame for some medical disasters.

The project will soon allow 2,500 doctors to use microcomputers in their surgeries to report immediately over the Prestel computer network adverse reactions in patients.

Government regulations could not provide all the answers. Historically, governments had reacted to calamities rather than anticipated them.

Table with 5 columns: Year, Preparation, Country, Deaths, Permanent injuries. Rows include Sulphanilamide, Thalidomide, etc.

Reports by Pearce Wright and Clive Cookson

In principle, there was no way that a government could anticipate the next calamity; it was much more likely the scientists in industry might be able to predict possible hazards.

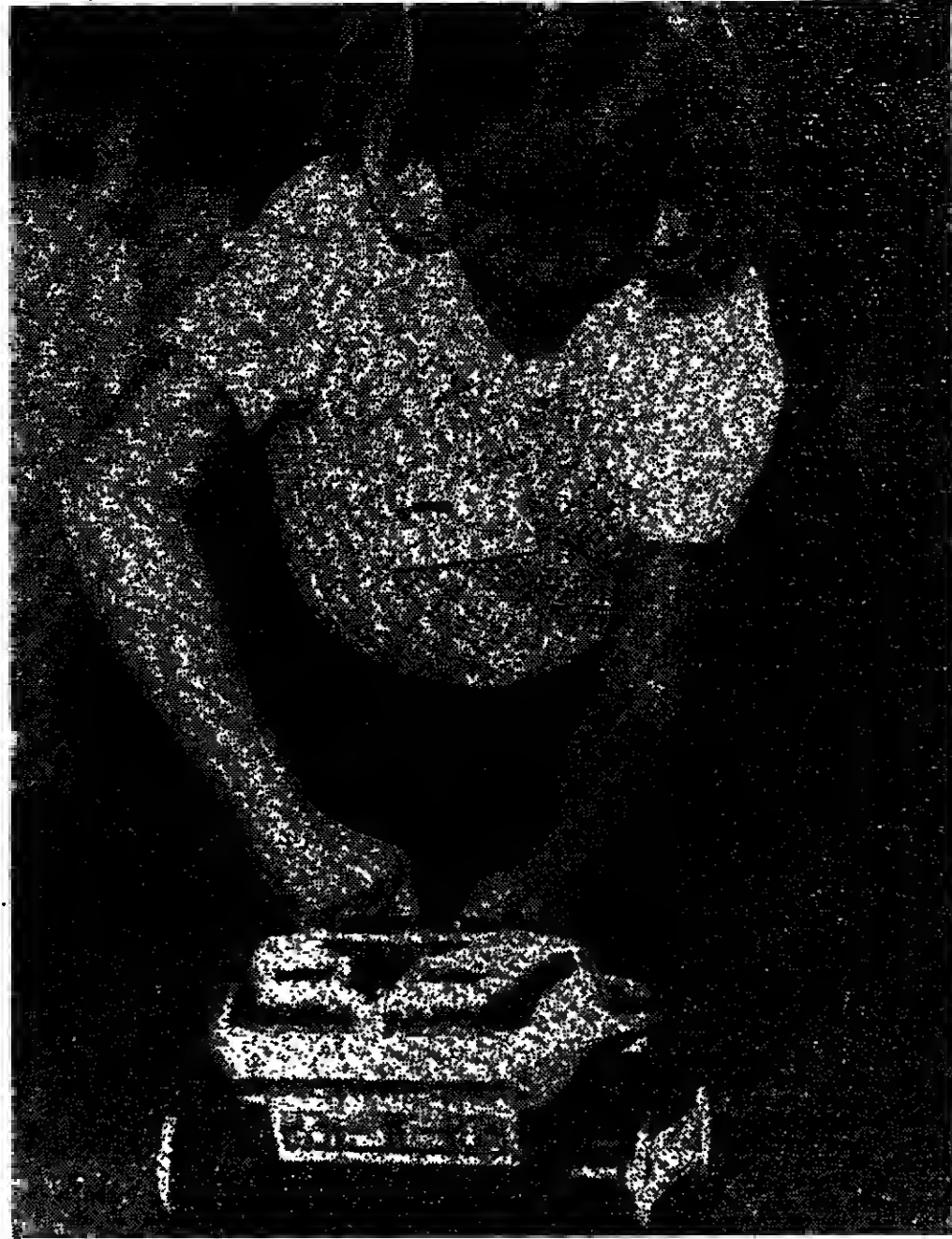
The Government's measures to monitor adverse reaction, using the system of 'yellow cards' filled in by doctors to record such reactions, was too slow for monitoring purposes.

Clinical trials, even when they involved thousands of patients, could not detect adverse effects which might happen with a probability of one in ten thousand or less, he said.

Nor would clinical trials necessarily point to adverse effects which happened only within a small sub-group of the population: he cited as typical sub-groups those affected by thalidomide and hexachlorocyclopentadiene.

With about twenty new pharmaceutical compounds marketed each year it would mean monitoring about two million patients a year if a risk of an adverse effect of one in 10,000 was to be detected.

One calculation was that it would cost £55m for each life saved. Computer-based reporting could handle large numbers of patients to reveal significant dangers as early as possible.



Kid's stuff: A girl programmes a computerized toy at the popular Micro-Computer Workshop at the British Association conference...

Aid for developing countries defended

'If I were a natural scientist one of the problems I would like to investigate is why a wasp will climb into a jam jar when several of its fellows are already there, lying dead'.

Some aspects of human behaviour display the same properties. He was describing the activities which were intended to be steps forward in cooperation between the industrial and developing worlds.

His theme was North and South; economic links and their implications. He launched into a spirited defence of aid against increasingly vocal critics.

'He has his views, as far as I can judge, on more or less anecdotal evidence of the occasional failed aid project, or on a priori theorizing which has little basis in reality'.

Professor Cassen said that the developing countries were suffering the worst setback to their prospects since the 1950s.

They developed rapidly in the 1950s; less so in the 1970s, but were still making progress. Now, at the start of the 1980s, their growth had fallen drastically.

He added that the record of North-North cooperation was not wholly empty. But the North was negative and had found a number of alibis for its poor performance in offering aid.

The recovery which had started in the world economy would take care of the developing countries' problems.

Aid did not work, or was even counter-productive. Development should be left to the private sector.

The industrial countries could not afford to do any more than they were doing already; they had to cut back their own domestic public expenditure.

The Fire Research Unit at Surrey is working on a new type of 'informative fire warning system'.

Why fire alarms are ignored

Most people have learnt to associate fire alarms with tests, drills or faults in the system.

Thus, they often ignore an alarm bell or siren when the building needs to be evacuated because of a real fire.

Helping plants to tap nitrogen

One of the greatest achievements of genetic engineering would be to give crop plants such as wheat the ability to fix their own nitrogen from the air.

That would liberate farmers from the expensive, time-consuming and environmentally damaging business of spreading nitrogen fertilizer.

Professor John Postgate, of Sussex University, told the agriculture section that the first step had been taken in the laboratory.

Learning from swans in top gear

What is the largest sized bird that might fly? The answer, according to Professor Michael French, Professor of Engineering at Lancaster University, is a four-winged bird.

Such a design should support a flying creature of up to 100 kilograms. Professor French used the example not to predict a genetically engineered monster but to show young engineers that good ways of design for one purpose were often inadequate for another.

His design avoids the strain of flapping too big a wing which limits the weight of real birds.

Flowers were strictly practical devices dedicated in every detail to the struggle for survival, with maximum insect-drawing power for minimum cost in living substance.

Animal test ban 'disastrous'

A total ban on animal experiments would be disastrous for medical research.

Using animals to test cosmetics was indefensible, he added, but there was an important difference between that and using them to combat life-threatening diseases.

Dr John Bademick, a doctor at the Department of Health and Social Security, told the association.

Using animals to test cosmetics was indefensible, he added, but there was an important difference between that and using them to combat life-threatening diseases.

Japan says Russian military build-up poses threat to Asia

Japan must improve its defence and cooperate more closely with the West to counter a Soviet military build-up to Asia, according to a defence White Paper endorsed by the Cabinet yesterday.

A private report on Japanese security, also issued this week in Tokyo, however, warns that it will be difficult to implement Japan's 1983-87 defence build-up plans for lack of adequate spending.

The White Paper, the first to be published since the Government of Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, was ousted, emphasizes Japan's growing role and status in the international community, a favourite theme of Mr Nakasone.

'Japan should work to far closer cooperation politically and economically with other Western nations', it says, adding that the East-West confrontation, based on US and Soviet military power, is becoming global in scope.

Despite efforts by the West to maintain a credible defence, if the trend of the Soviet Union's 'unrelenting military build-up' continues, the military balance is likely to favour the Eastern bloc, the paper warns.

For the first time in a White Paper, the defence Agency mentioned defending Japanese sea lanes. It said that the nation's maritime defence is being built up with the goal of

Defending the sea lanes

providing protection for sea lanes of communication within a radius of several hundred miles and, in the case of an armed attack on Japan, protecting sea routes for about 1,000 nautical miles.

The Japanese Government and the United States have begun a study of the sea lanes problem. Private experts, however, say that it will take at least a decade for Japan to build up its forces to the level at which a credible defence could be mounted.

The 1983 edition of Asian Security, published by a research institute in Tokyo, points to a number of problems involved in the sea lane study, including differing views held by the United States and Japan, and in achieving other defence targets.

Defence has been given priority in the national budget in recent years, but spending has been too low to achieve the targets set out under the mid-term build-up plan, ending in 1987, the study says.

Even if Japan were to achieve the targets set out under current plans, the country would still not be able to assume the responsibilities as an ally which the United States now seems to advocate. The current build-up is designed strictly for the defence of Japan and not for any wider purposes.

Asian Security comments that there is no sign so far of a more far-reaching plan.

Indian mediator works for Sri Lanka peace

Prospects of a negotiated settlement between the Sri Lankan Government and Tamil leaders improved yesterday after the first round of discussions between President Jayawardene and Mr Gopalswamy Parthasarathy, the Indian special envoy. They met for 90 minutes without any airthral.

Mr Appapali Amirthalingam, leader of the opposition, who is secretary-general of the Tamil United Liberation Front, had been in Madras where he was expected to meet Mr Parthasarathy. He changed plans and returned to Colombo yesterday for discussions with the Indian envoy, who is trying to arrange round-table discussions between the main parties in Sri Lanka.

The Freedom Party has supported the Government's stand that outstanding issues can be settled if the Tamil leaders disavow separatism.

As the three main left-wing parties have been proscribed under the present state of emergency they will not be invited to discussions.

The general strike in the Tamil north entered its third day yesterday.

COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan Parliament has voted to extend the state of emergency for a further month. The extension was approved by 140 votes to none.

Star-gazing sailor who travels hopefully

From a Correspondent Hobart, Tasmania

While the eyes of the yachting world are on the America's Cup extravaganza, a remarkable sea voyage is under way on the other side of the world.

A retired college professor from New Jersey docked in the quiet port of Hobart last week at the halfway point of the first circumnavigation of the globe without navigational instruments.

Professor Marvin Creamer, aged 67, left Cape May, on New Jersey's southern coast, on December 21 on a 16-month voyage in which he expects to 'eyeball' his way with no compass to find direction, no sextant to determine latitude and no timepiece.

His route will take him via the three capes: the Cape of Good Hope, Tasmania's South-West Cape, and the notorious Cape Horn. His craft is a 35ft steel sloop, the Globe Star.

It is a feat which may well surpass the efforts of modern seafarers such as Sir Francis Chichester and Chay Blythe, for while they were alone - Professor Creamer has two crew - they were able, through substantial sponsorship, to use the best equipment available.

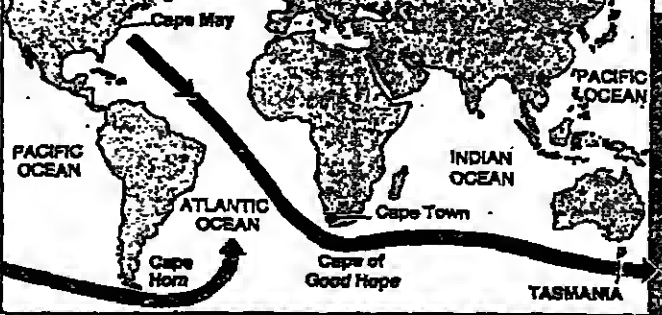
Professor Creamer has no lucrative contracts and the venture is financed mostly by his own life savings.

'I am out to prove that there is information in the sea and the sky which can be used for fairly accurate navigation', he explained. 'It's a tip of the hat to the ancients.'

'I don't pretend that they circumnavigated the globe - that would be balderdash - but



Time-and-motion: Professor Creamer has only an hourglass to change watch by.



I would like to open scholars' eyes to what may be available', he said.

The Globe Star first sighted the Tasmanian coast spot-on at South-West Cape after a 76-day, 6,600-mile haul from Cape Town.

involves numerous observations with the naked eye, such as star sightings, wave patterns, swell direction, the position of the sun and even the colour of the sea, caused by a higher plankton population as they hit a continental shelf.

The key is to establish the correct latitude then to sail parallel to the equator, in this case due east.

Each star in the heavens can be related, through a set of tables known as the declination tables, to a position of latitude when that star passes the meridian, or its highest point in the sky.

By placing his yacht directly beneath the appropriate star at the right time, Professor Creamer has no need for a sextant.

'We expected to be within 450 nautical miles, or about 1° of latitude, but frankly I don't think we could have done better with instruments', he said.

Professor Creamer's method, which has taken him on three transatlantic crossings,

Sick Germans grit teeth and work on

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Unemployment is good for your health. Or rather, the fear of unemployment forces many people who feel unwell to stay at work instead of registering as sick.

This conclusion has been drawn in West Germany from the sudden and drastic fall in the past 15 months of the percentage of people applying to state health insurance bureaux.

The fall coincides with a sharp rise in unemployment, which now stands at over 2,500,000. For years, it seemed Germans were becoming ever more susceptible to disease.

On television, a doctor said many workers were frightened that if they stayed at home, there would not be a job for them when they returned. They needed, therefore, to 'grit their teeth and bear it', and doctors were being asked to prescribe stronger and more expensive medicines so that people could continue working when they should be in bed.

Unemployment bends the charts

Analysts blamed stress, loss of motivation at work, fear of change, monotony, lack of challenge, and frustration. Women were especially blamed for taking more sickness leave than justified by health. They, together with foreign workers and the unskilled, were found to fall ill most often.

But the next three years have seen a reversal of this trend. Whereas in 1980 6.03 per cent of the population registered sick, in 1981 this had fallen to 5.53 per cent, and by last year it was only 4.48 per cent.

The agency said Governor Liang Lingzhang concluded a three-day visit to the Portuguese-run enclave on Thursday. Rear-Admiral Vasco da Almeida e Costa, Macao's Governor, told him it would be difficult for Macao to fulfil its development plans without China's support.

Lisbon recognized China's sovereignty over Macao in 1976 and Peking agreed that Portugal should continue to run it. China has left Macao intact and poured money into development projects.

The most recent is a plan to reclaim 1.2m square yards of land in Macao's outer harbour. About 95 per cent of the hundreds of millions of pounds for this scheme will come from the Chinese special economic zone of Zhuhai.

Macao is just east across the Pearl River estuary from Hong Kong, where markets are sensitive to any hints of Chinese intention when Britain's lease on most of the territory expires in 1997.

Exiled writer stripped of citizenship

MOSCOW (NYT) - Georgi Vladimirov, the dissident writer who left under pressure for the West last spring, has been stripped of his citizenship by the Soviet Government for systematically engaging in activities hostile to the state.

The decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet was dated July 1, a month after Mr Vladimirov and his wife, Natalya Kuznetsova, and her mother left the Soviet Union for West Germany.

Vatican bankers' assets to be seized

A Milan magistrate investigating the collapse last year of the late Roberto Calvi's Banco Ambrosiano is reported to have ordered the sequestration of the assets in Italy of two senior officials of the Vatican bank, the Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR). Signor Luigi Memmi, the chief tax executive, and Signor Pellegrino de Sirocchi, the chief accountant, are both Italian citizens.

In a debate in Parliament last October the Treasury Minister of the day, Senator Nino Andreatta, said the IOR owed Banco Ambrosiano \$1,287m (£858m).

No order has been made against Mgr Paul Marcinkus, the controversial American archbishop whom the Pope has retained as chairman of the bank, as he is understood to have no assets in Italy.

Last summer the Milan public prosecutor tried to serve formal notices on the three IOR officials that they were under investigation in connection with the Ambrosiano collapse - Italy's biggest banking failure - but the Vatican refused to accept the notices.

Milan court sources said Signor Memmi and Signor de Sirocchi were among a group of people whose assets were

recently ordered to be seized, though their names have not been officially released.

The magistrate's decision was taken before the seizure ordered earlier this week of a controlling 50.2 per cent shareholding in the Rizzoli-Corriere della Sera publishing group in the hands of Signor Angelo Rizzoli and the former managing director, Signor Bruno Tassan Din.

There was no comment in the Vatican where, after months of delay, the report is awaited from an Italian-Vatican commission charged with ascertaining the facts of the IOR's liability towards Banco Ambrosiano.

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Congress study shows that Reagan cuts have hit poor hardest

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The brunt of President Reagan's cuts in welfare and other domestic spending will be borne by families earning less than \$10,000 (\$6,600) a year, an income that is typical in the big-city ghettos.

The findings result from the most intensive study carried out by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) on the subject. Some of the statistics are startling. For example, 70 per cent of the main domestic benefit programmes will affect households with a total income of \$20,000 and less.

In the 1985 fiscal year the loss to those families will average \$415, whereas higher-income families will lose only \$175. The losses are across the board of benefit programmes - retirement and disability payments, unemployment pay, housing, child nutrition support, health care, education, social services and job training. The findings are acutely embarrassing the Administration.

Martin Luther King rally

Squabbles threaten civil rights dream

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Scores of thousands are expected to descend on Washington today for the twentieth anniversary of Martin Luther King's historic "I have a dream" rally. Saturday, in atmosphere and content it will be a different occasion from the one in 1963, when the civil rights movement marched under a single, united banner.

Several groups, particularly those pursuing Jewish interests, will be absent - a reflection of how the civil rights movement has fragmented into an array of sectional and often opposing interests.

For weeks the organizers have been agonizing over the wording of a paper on foreign policy. The fact that there is a foreign policy paper at all reflects the different character of the rally from 1963, when the issues were simple, few and indigenous: jobs and civil rights.

The final wording of the paper has alienated many Jewish groups, who see it as anti-Israel. It has also served to put a formal stamp on the new character of civil rights activism in America, a movement with many faces, most of them looking beyond the traditional issues that brought 250,000 protesters to Washington 20 years ago.

The National Urban League, the biggest black welfare organization in America, will not officially march on Saturday. "We believe the focus on a broad range of issues is likely to limit the impact (of the march)," it said. "We cannot justify the strain on our limited staff and resources that participation would entail."

A host of Jewish organizations - all prominent on the streets of Washington in 1963 - will not be present because of a passage in the foreign policy paper that declares opposition to the militarization of internal conflicts, often abetted and even encouraged by massive US arms exports, in areas of the world, such as the Middle East and Central America.

Word has seeped out that the phraseology was decided in consultation with the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, thus further antagonizing many Jewish groups.

Mrs Coretta Scott King, the widow of Martin Luther King, signed a letter to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations stating: "We intend to highlight in our legislative and official policy statements the goal of peace. We will not articulate a specific strategy for achieving it."

In a further attempt to shore up flagging Jewish support, the organizers of the officially titled "March on Washington" said they would publicly disavow any antisemitic or anti-Israel statements that might be made on Saturday.

They also promised to instruct parade marshals to screen placards and banners to ensure that they were to the general theme of "jobs, peace and freedom."

The American Jewish Committee, among other organizations, was not satisfied by the reassurances. Mr Hyman Bookbinder, its Washington representative, said: "The organizers made a serious mistake when they moved away from the 1963 civil rights goals into complicated foreign policy questions." He claimed that the policy statements of the march were too pro-Third World and anti-American.

The American labour movement, too, is lukewarm about the march. The AFL-CIO will be officially present but it has not proposed any special effort to get trade unionists on to the streets.

Even so the march organizers hope that 200,000 people will assemble in the mall in front of the Washington monument for the short walk to the Lincoln Memorial. So far 715 national organizations and 30 international groups have declared support and more than 2,600 buses have been booked from all corners of the country.

Thais score successes in war on drug rings

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Thailand, intensifying its war against narcotics, is seizing twice as much heroin this year as it did in 1982, according to Major-General Chavalit Yodmanee, Secretary-General of the Narcotics Control Board.

He said 600 kilograms (1,323 lb) of heroin was confiscated in the first seven months of this year. This equaled the amount seized during the whole of last year. About 520 people were being arrested every week in 500 separate drug-related cases.

The seizure of 600 kilograms of heroin is significant because it represents nearly 20 per cent of Thailand's opium crop which amounted to 35 tons at the last harvest. Ten tons of opium are required to make one ton of heroin.

The bulk of the Golden Triangle opium is grown in Burma with the third side of the triangle, Laos, providing about 70 tons a year.

Thailand's anti-narcotics campaign shifted into top gear about 20 months ago. Its success may be explained by a remark by Mr Maurice Tanner, the senior American narcotics officer in Thailand: "I am happy," he said, "when I pick up my paper and see they have arrested a police officer or Army man with narcotics. That hardly happens until recently. Now they are going after them."

When Khun Sa's men began to reestablish themselves recently on Thai territory, Thailand launched three separate assaults against the new bases, and in the past three weeks have seized two large heroin refineries, extensive living quarters, storerooms and supplies.

Last month they arrested a Singaporean alleged to be a key figure in a drugs ring stretching from South-east Asia to Europe and Australia.

Americans return to the gas guzzler

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Out of the shadows of shame the big American car is emerging again into the sunlight of popular approval.

After being put behind the wheels of smaller cars by the 1970s oil crisis and the skill of foreign car makers, Americans are returning in their thousands to their true love: the big, fat, plush, squabby gas-guzzler, the traditional and ever present prop of the American stage.

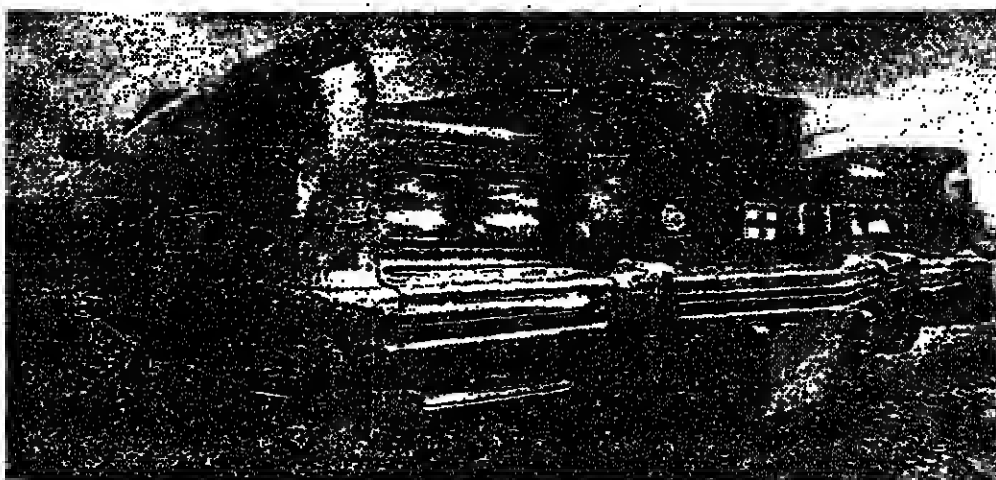
Suddenly there are smiles again in Detroit, the automobile capital. Manufacturers cannot produce limousines fast enough to meet demand. Car sales are the best for four years, and sales of large cars in July were up by a third compared with the same month last year. Ford, Chrysler and General Motors are expected to make \$3.3 billion net profit this year, roughly what they lost in 1980-1982.

With optimism running high, it cannot be long before Motown businessmen revive the grace once bestowed on the businessmen's lunch a few years ago: "Almighty God, we thank thee for the wheel, for the person who made it into a vehicle, for those who produce it, and bless us who use it. Amen."

The immediate cause of the resurgence of the big car is the fall in the cost of petrol, to about 92p a gallon, and the fact that better engine design enables even the largest roadliners to consume less than they used to. More Americans feel that they can return to large cars without feeling that the conservationists are frowning on them.

Americans have always liked owning big cars, symbols of the full and abundant life. From the dawn of the motor age the broad-shouldered car with a billiard-table bonnet and a howling-ally boot seemed an indispensable part of the American scene and dream, a keystone of culture, social intercourse and the American rite of courtship.

The oil crisis made Americans reconsider their relationship with cars, one of the momentous readjustments of



Motown's delight: The big, plush roadliner is fashionable again.

mark over some American cars, however. The Government is suing General Motors to make them recall 1.1m cars with suspected brake defects. The Government alleges that the defects led to 15 deaths and that GM tried to cover up the facts.

The renewal of the American love affair with the big car is also, ironically, getting the manufacturers into trouble with the Government.

Under fuel economy regulations, petrol consumption must average 26 miles per gallon. Makers are liable to a penalty of \$3.30 for each one-tenth of a mile per gallon by which they fail to meet the standard, multiplied by the number of cars they sell in a year. On this basis General Motors could face a fine of about \$266m this year, and Ford about \$106m.

Mr Ralph Nader, the American consumer activist, had already accused car manufacturers of putting profits and style before safety and quality, and safety legislation and foreign competition has led to a reform of ideas in the motor industry. For a long time American cars have not had a good reputation in respect of quality, and Detroit today is putting an emphasis on better design, engineering and finish.

There is still a question-

mark over some American cars, however. The Government is suing General Motors to make them recall 1.1m cars with suspected brake defects. The Government alleges that the defects led to 15 deaths and that GM tried to cover up the facts.

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'I saw warders beat three prisoners to death'

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Warders in charge of a working party of black convicts beat three of them to death as they lay slumped over wheelbarrows crying for mercy in blazing heat, a court has been told.

Eight warders, four whites and four blacks, have pleaded not guilty to three charges of murder and 24 of assault with intent to do bodily harm at their trial at Witbank, in the eastern Transvaal.

Mr Andries Mtembu, serving five years for theft, said the temperature was about 35°C (95°F) when a party of 47 prisoners was escorted to a dam site at the Barberton prison.

"The warders told us we were going to work until the sweat and salt poured out," Mr Mtembu said.

He said three warders beat Robert Khumalo, one of the three who later died, until he collapsed beside his wheelbarrow.

Another of the men who died, Mhlakaza Xaba, was lying on the ground and moaning. "I'm dying."

Mr Mtembu said Xaba staggered to his feet and reeled away like a drunkard.

"This warder ran after Xaba and hit him on the back of the head. Xaba fell. The warder then put his foot on him and pulled him up by his left arm and hit him repeatedly."

Mr Mtembu told the court: "What I have said in my evidence is that I have seen three men being beaten to death."

Major General Prospero Olivares, chief of the Manila Metropolitan Police, told a news conference that investigators had encountered only "blond leads" in trying to identify the alleged assassin who was killed by security officers.

He added that among many officers confined in quarters during the inquiry was Brigadier General Luther Custodim, head of airport security.



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Police leave cancelled as Sind prepares for third week of violence

From Michael Hamlyn Karachi

All police leave has been cancelled in the troubled province of Sind as the Pakistani authorities prepare for a possible third week of violent demonstrations against the martial law regime of President Zia ul-Haq.

Yesterday, however, was the quietest day since the campaign of civil disobedience began on August 14, Independence Day. A number of individuals "courted arrest" in towns around the country; they appeared in the street at a prearranged time, and started shouting slogans against the regime. The police led them away to overcrowded jails. But no major incidents were reported.

Outside the New Town mosque in Karachi, not far from the tomb of Iqbal, the founder of the nation - an eager crowd gathered after midday prayers yesterday, rather like a gathering after matins on a Christian Sunday.

As the worshippers poured out of the mosque with their lacy skullcaps in place, Mr Muhammad Sharif, a leader of the left-wing Sind People's Movement, stood on a car and waved a paper placard. He looked over his shoulder nervously and began to shout slogans like "Death to Zia", "Zia is a dog", and other remarks in breach of martial law.

Nothing happened. He looked over his shoulder again down the road to where a police detachment in steel helmets were swinging their lathis, and

Gandhi backs call for democracy

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, yesterday endorsed her Government's statement in support of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy in Pakistan (Our Delhi Correspondent writes).

She told a meeting of the Congress parliamentary party that the people of Pakistan had been struggling for democracy, of which they had only a brief spell. "We are a democracy and shall ever be so. We have to oppose injustice everywhere. We want that there should be democracy everywhere", she said.

When such things happened in India's neighbourhood, we are moved because these have repercussions in our country. We just cannot keep our eyes closed".

Mr Muhammad Yusuf, an additional city magistrate, solved the problem for them. With a loud hailer he informed them that prayers were over, and if they did not disperse they would all be arrested. Five minutes later a police inspector took the loud hailer and said their time was up; he was coming to get them.

He and a platoon of police strung out across the road walked towards them. The crowd suddenly remembered it was lunchtime, and melted away.

carried on sloganeering until he could not think of any thing else to say. Then he got down off his perch and walked towards the police. The crowd followed him closely until two brawny plainclothes men took him by the arms and led him off. The crowd fell back and began lobbing stones at the police in a desultory and nervous sort of way.

Then another would-be martyr stepped forward and shouted a few slogans. This was Mr Amir Husain Shah, president of the Sind branch of the

National Liberation Front, one of the eight banned parties forming the movement for the restoration of democracy that is organizing the civil disobedience campaign.

He too set off towards the police with his arms up in a Nixsonian V-sign. As the crowd again began to pelt the police he waved them back. "No, no. This is a peaceful demonstration", he insisted. The policeman shook his hand and led him to the pick-up truck that drove him away with his hand still fixed in a V-sign.

At this stage earlier in the week the real business of the day would have begun with youngsters hurling missiles at the police and the police responding with tear gas.

There was a tense moment or two as the crowd, which had now grown to more than a thousand, hopped from one foot to another and wondered what to do next.

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Desert encounter: An unflappable ostrich and a donkey carrying water pass a French armoured car in Massakori, Chad, without showing any concern.

Chad envoy plays down his recall

From Diana Geddes Paris

Mr Ahmad Allam-Mi, Chad's Chargé d'Affaires in Paris, tried yesterday to dispel suspicion that his recall to Ndjamena was linked with Chad's disapproval of President Mitterrand's comments on the possible creation of a federation in Chad or his lack of support for a counter-offensive against the Libyan-backed rebels.

Mr Allam-Mi said his recall, which came immediately after the publication of M Mitterrand's interview on Chad in *Le Monde*, was for "regular consultations" with officials in Ndjamena, and had nothing to do with the French President's statement. He is due to leave Paris on Monday.

Earlier, he had expressed satisfaction that M Mitterrand had confirmed France's firm support for the Chad Government against the "Libyan aggressor". There was no dispute between France and President Hissène Habré; the misunderstandings had been cleared up, he insisted.

But sources in Ndjamena indicated that Chad government officials are concerned about President Mitterrand's strong hints that the French would not back a counter-offensive against the key town of Faya-Lageau, and about his proposal for a federation.

Ndjamena - M Charles Hénri, the French Defence Minister, began an inspection tour yesterday of French paratroopers facing Chad's Libyan-held northern desert. (AP reports).

Arab prisoners moved Israelis find escape warren

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

In an effort to close off access to a warren of escape tunnels under the Arab prison camp at Ansar, South Lebanon, the Israeli Army has moved all 5,000 inmates, most of them Palestinians. They are being housed in a temporary compound while a permanent camp is built on higher ground nearby.

The Army's engineering corps are working around the clock to complete the new camp which has already started to take detainees. All are being held without trial by the Israelis, who have repeatedly refused to grant them prisoner-of-war status.

Confirming the evacuation of the original barbed-wire compound, built soon after the invasion in June last year, Israeli military sources told *The Times* that the new camp was needed to improve security and provide better winter conditions.

On Thursday night, two Arab escapees who were part of a mass breakout earlier this month were shot dead when they opened fire on an Israeli roadblock in Lebanon's Chouf mountains and three others were injured. Three more Arabs in the two cars in the incident were also killed.

Although journalists are barred from visiting the new Ansar camp, I understand that the look of permanence comes from paved roads and butts for communal facilities.

The costly construction has added the impression that Israel is preparing for a long stay in south Lebanon after the imminent pull-back to the Awaili River.

The sources said a number of tunnels had been discovered under the evacuated compound, in which hundreds of tents were burnt down or torn to pieces in a riot last month. They also spoke of the severe difficulties facing Israeli guards as military grows among the PLO prisoners.

The indication of these problems came this week from a reservist who had just finished his term of duty at the camp. He wrote: "It is no longer clear who is whose prisoner".

The reservist, who claimed that the Israelis were losing control, added: "At night, you can clearly hear the sounds of underground tunnelling. All of Ansar is sitting on an underground tunnel system. Sometimes prisoners disappear and are found a few hours later, obviously having spent time in one of the underground caverns."

The military sources acknowledge the difficulties but deny that control has been lost at Ansar. They argue that the guards would not have been able to supervise the transfer in the temporary camp if they had not been in control of the prisoners.

Mr Michael Ben-Meir, another reservist recently released from guard duty, has described how the prisoners dismantled handiwork kits and welded tent pegs on to their portable cooking stoves to make weapons. He told of Israeli guards being attacked with rocks and "cursed, spat and sworn at" by the inmates.

The original compound at Ansar, a hillside village near the town of Nabatiya, was guarded from watchtowers equipped with heavy machine guns, surrounded by barbed wire, earthworks and a perimeter that carried mine warnings. No details of the extensive new security measures in the permanent camp have been disclosed.

Although repeated efforts have been made behind the scenes to negotiate a prisoner exchange, none has yet come close to success, and the Israelis claim to be refusing direct contact with the PLO. Israel is also holding some 300 Syrian soldiers and officers captured during the Lebanon war.

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The indication of these problems came this week from a reservist who had just finished his term of duty at the camp. He wrote: "It is no longer clear who is whose prisoner".

The reservist, who claimed that the Israelis were losing control, added: "At night, you can clearly hear the sounds of underground tunnelling. All of Ansar is sitting on an underground tunnel system. Sometimes prisoners disappear and are found a few hours later, obviously having spent time in one of the underground caverns."

The military sources acknowledge the difficulties but deny that control has been lost at Ansar. They argue that the guards would not have been able to supervise the transfer in the temporary camp if they had not been in control of the prisoners.

Mr Michael Ben-Meir, another reservist recently released from guard duty, has described how the prisoners dismantled handiwork kits and welded tent pegs on to their portable cooking stoves to make weapons. He told of Israeli guards being attacked with rocks and "cursed, spat and sworn at" by the inmates.

The original compound at Ansar, a hillside village near the town of Nabatiya, was guarded from watchtowers equipped with heavy machine guns, surrounded by barbed wire, earthworks and a perimeter that carried mine warnings. No details of the extensive new security measures in the permanent camp have been disclosed.

Although repeated efforts have been made behind the scenes to negotiate a prisoner exchange, none has yet come close to success, and the Israelis claim to be refusing direct contact with the PLO. Israel is also holding some 300 Syrian soldiers and officers captured during the Lebanon war.

Satellite weapon 'tested by Russia'

Frankfurt (AFP) - The Soviet Union tested an anti-satellite weapon above Munich in June, 1982, according to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. "Secret Western information" showed the test, while not wholly conclusive technically, proved that the Russians were capable of destroying satellites above Soviet territory.

MP cleared in Montreal

Ottawa - A Montreal judge has ruled that Mr Bryce Mackasey, aged 62, a Liberal MP and former minister, does not have to stand trial on three charges of influence peddling (John Best writes).

He was charged with illegally accepting a \$400,000 (£10,000) loan in return for trying to obtain government contracts for a Montreal machine tool firm. Two businessmen, Mr Robert Harrison and Mr Jean Bryure, still face charges of attempting to bribe Mr Mackasey.

Track record

Washington (Reuters) - On a journey from Florida in New York the "Silver Meteor" train ran down and killed a woman on the line, collided with a lorry abandoned on the track, struck another lorry that had stalled on a crossing, and was derailed. Nineteen of the 413 passengers were treated in hospital after the last incident.

Vote marathon

Lagos (AFP) - Nigerians vote today for the fourth successive Saturday this time to elect a federal House of Representatives, the 450-member lower chamber of the National Assembly. There is no voting in the western state of Oyo and Ondo.

Rain toll

Bayonne (AP) - Four people drowned and six others were reported missing after torrential rain hit the French Basque country. Three people died when their camper was swept away by high water near St Jean-de-Luz.

Back to work

President José Figueredo of Brazil, aged 65, who returned to work yesterday after recovering from a heart operation in the United States.

Aides accused

Yaoundé (AP) - Two close associates of former President Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroon, Major Ibrahim Oumharou and Captain Ahmadou Salatu, have been accused of "attacking the security of the state" and will be brought in trial.

False alarm

Bagotville, Quebec (AP) - A Wardair DC10 charter flight from Calgary to London, carrying 297 passengers made an emergency landing at a Canadian military base here, after a faulty fire indicator light went on.

Blast questions

Berlin (Reuters) - West Berlin police have questioned eight Armenians living in the city in connexion with the explosion at the French consulate on Thursday. They were not detained but police examined a large amount of printed material.

Lima protest

Lima (Reuters) - About 5,000 workers, carrying empty pots and pans, marched on Congress in protest against hunger, unemployment and the Government's economic austerity measures. But police prevented the demonstrators from approaching the building.

Uganda deaths

Kampala (AP) - Three members of the ruling Uganda People's Congress youth wing were killed when gunmen attacked Bukasa, near the Ugandan capital. A policeman was shot dead while setting up a roadblock near Kyaajja.

Seychelles link

Victoria (AP) - The Chinese Minister for Foreign Trade, Mrs Chen Muhua, held talks with President Albert René in the Seychelles capital on economic and technical cooperation.

Super spiders

Moscow (Reuters) - A plague of highly-poisonous Black Widow spiders has hit the southern Soviet region of Astrakhan. The spiders, which have killed a number of camels and other animals, emit a poison 15 times stronger than that of a cobra.

150 held in Uruguay after protest

Montevideo (Reuters) - A call by Uruguay's political parties for people to remain indoors and darken their homes to show opposition to military rule turned into a noisy day of protest, with many arrests reported.

Witnesses said that at least 150 demonstrators were detained as they dispersed after a spontaneous rally in Montevideo on Thursday night at the end of the first day of protest called by all parties against the 10-year-old military government.

More than 2,000 demonstrators had earlier marched through the city after a day in which residents banged pots and pans to express their opposition.

Demonstrators made victory signs when they rallied on the square facing Government House and motorists sounded their horns in streets that had been nearly deserted for most of the day.

Leaflers showered around the capital in recent days by political parties did not call for a march or pot-banging; the parties instead asked people to remain indoors for two hours before switching house lights off for 15 minutes.

The protest was organized by a last group comprising members of all parties, including outlawed left-wing groups, set up after the Government banned all public political activity and publication of political news on August 2.

The Government, however, reiterated its intention to hold elections in November 1984 and hand over power to a civilian administration in March, 1985.

The August 2 ban followed the breakdown of talks between the Government and politicians when the three legal parties - the Blanco, the Colorado and the small Civic Union - stormed out in protest against proposed constitutional reforms which, they said, would give the military sweeping powers of political repression.

Chile opposition insists that Pinochet resign

Santiago (Reuters) - Political parties trying to oust President Pinochet of Chile have told Señor Sergio Jarpa, the Interior Minister, that the President must resign.

But after their meeting, the demand did not appear in a list of eight measures which the Democratic Alliance said the Government should adopt as soon as possible.

The meeting this week at the residence of the Archbishop of Santiago, was held only hours after the Alliance called for a new day of protest on September 8 to back its call for a return to democracy in 18 months.

Nicaragua rebels step up campaign

Managua (NYT) - Insurgents fighting the Nicaraguan Government have stepped up their activity in the past week, mounting at least eight attacks over a wide area of northern Nicaragua and inflicting scores of casualties, according to government officials.

Nicaraguan diplomats say they believe that as many as 2,000 insurgents have entered Nicaragua from bases in Honduras this month. The Defence Ministry issued a statement on Thursday asserting that the country was facing a new escalation of aggression.

The Defence Minister, Commander Humberto Ortega, last weekend said that the military situation had become difficult. The insurgents are said to have received millions of dollars in covert aid from the United States.

This week's fighting, which followed several months of reduced activity by the insurgents, has extended throughout northern Nicaragua, according to Sandinista Government reports.

Earlier insurgent operations were concentrated to the western part of the country. The appearance of hundreds of insurgents in the eastern province of Zelaya led Commander Ortega to speculate publicly that their goal was to seize Puerto Dabizas, an important port on the Caribbean coast.

He said the insurgents were seeking a place to establish a provisional government that would be recognized by the United States and its regional allies.

The insurgent campaign comes as the US is preparing to send as many as 6,000 troops to Honduras for manoeuvres expected to last up to six months.

Rebels repelled Militiamen in the northern Nicaraguan town of Ciudad Sandino beat off 200 rebels in a three-hour battle, killing 21, residents said yesterday (Reuters reports).

Battleship arrives: The 57,000-ton battleship New Jersey and six other US warships arrived off Nicaragua's Pacific coast to begin military exercises. A five-ship battle group led by the 62,000-ton aircraft carrier Coral Sea is off the Caribbean coast.

Bizarre start to Pérez de Cuellar's Angola mission

From Richard Dowden, Luanda

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the secretary general of the United Nations, arrived here yesterday to a reception designed to impress upon him the strength and firmness of Angola's position on Namibia, then encountered a bizarre attempt to make him stay longer than he intended.

Given a public holiday, tens of thousands of Government supporters filled the airport and lined the streets to welcome him. Banners denouncing South Africa and the United States were suddenly draped across the airport road. As he stepped off his aircraft a little girl ran forward as if to embrace him. Señor de Cuellar's face fell

in embarrassment as he realized she was tying an MPLA scarf around his neck.

Taken to a podium opposite a sculpture depicting an army boot as big as a house stamping on a South African soldier, he was subjected to an impromptu rally: 40 minutes of speeches in support of the MPLA and praising the 1976 revolution in which, with Soviet and Cuban military aid, it defeated its Pretoria-backed rivals.

President Eduardo dos Santos made a short speech repeating Angola's conditions for the withdrawal of Cubans from its territory; there should be an unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from Angola. United Nations Resolution 435 on Namibian independence should be rapidly implemented and South Africa should stop acting in support of UNITA.

When these conditions are fulfilled then we will be ready to discuss with Cuba the progressive withdrawal of Cuban forces", said the President.

Señor Pérez de Cuellar had planned to leave last night but according to the Angolan programme he was to leave at midday today, having met representatives from the South West African People's Organization (Swapo) and the African National Congress of South Africa. He is still planning to meet Mr Sam Nujoma, the President of Swapo.

The Angolans had also announced that Señor Pérez de Cuellar would arrive at 10.30 yesterday morning but the drummers were still beating out a welcome an hour later.

Then at about 12.15 the Soviet Ambassador arrived from Moscow and was ushered into line to meet the secretary general. The rest of the diplomatic corps had been inexplicably dismissed earlier. The ambassador said later that he did not know that Señor Pérez de Cuellar's time of arrival was to be 1pm and he had not expected to be in the reception committee.

The UN Secretary-General is claiming some success from his visit to South Africa and Namibia.

JOHANNESBURG: President Curnutt believes that the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola should be handled separately from the independence of Namibia (Ray Kennedy reports).

"I hate the idea of linking the two things," he said. The Secretary General repeated that his talks in Cape Town and Windhoek were confined to his Security Council mandate to negotiate the speedy implementation of Resolution 435.

The South African Government views the withdrawal of Cuban forces as an absolute prerequisite. Señor de Cuellar said "it will be in an entirely different context, not in the context of Resolution 435".

Police with batons and pickaxe handles broke up a demonstration by Swapo outside his hotel in Windhoek on Thursday night.

Gemayel pleads for unity when Israel pulls out

From Kate Dourian, Beirut

For those who remember the fiery speeches Mr Amin Gemayel, the Lebanese President, made at the UN last year and his moving addresses to militias when he was a young Deputy, his televised speech on Thursday night was sobering. Wearing a dark suit, he faced the nation and appealed for help in his efforts to deploy the Lebanese Army in the troubled Chouf mountains.

No doubt his mood reflected the uncertainty the country is facing as the time for Israeli redeployment nears. As one left-wing newspaper, *As Saïr*, put it, Mr Gemayel personified the calm before the storm.

In his speech, the President said: "The hour of challenge is approaching", and called on his countrymen to support the Government's plan to deploy the Army in the Chouf mountains in the event of an Israeli pull-out.

"The Lebanese Army will enter the Chouf with the people and not against the people because it is the only alternative in the armies of division."

Mr Gemayel's speech contained no great revelations or truths, except perhaps his first admission that the country was closer to partition than the Government had previously cared to admit.

Not once did he mention the US or Lebanon's West European supporters, or emphasize - as he has done so many times before - that the salvation of Lebanon would come through their support.

"You are the state and the state is you," Mr Gemayel said. "The new Lebanon will belong to all Lebanese without discrimination, hegemony or domination. There is no discrimination between one citizen or another..."

While setting the mind of the populace at ease by emphasizing that the Army would remain neutral if it entered the Chouf, where his father's Phalange militia are fighting the Druze, Mr Gemayel gave no indication that he was closer to an agreement to prevent a violent confrontation. The Druze have said that one will be inevitable if the Army goes in without some form of reconciliation.

If Mr Gemayel captured the heart or attention of the man in the street, it is doubtful whether he scored a similar success with his unpredictable opponents, although the general reaction yesterday was somewhat reassuring.

One person who was not appeased was the Druze leader, Mr Walid Jumblatt, head of the Left-wing Progressive Socialist Party. He said the President's assurances were not enough and called on the Druze of the Chouf to rise up against the Army if it deployed in their villages.



President José Figueredo of Brazil, aged 65, who returned to work yesterday after recovering from a heart operation in the United States.

مكتبة القرآن الكريم

Radio Slaving away

I suppose many of us entertain the reassuring notion that in the wake of William Wilberforce, and whatever else may be wrong with the world, we have at least been able to leave behind us the condition in which one man actually owns another as his property. Not quite so. In *The Unbroken Line* (Radio 4, August 23), producer, Jock Gallagher, Adam Raphael was able to give instances not only of practices which amount to slavery (debt-bondage in India, the enticement of jobless American workers into labour camps where they are held by force and without proper pay), but of the present day ownership of one human being by another.

In Mauritania in West Africa, slavery was last outlawed three years ago - after several previous and unsuccessful enactments - and still it has not disappeared. Indeed it cannot disappear for it seems that the Mauritanian economy would collapse without it. Free the slaves, compel their owners to pay them and these owners would quite simply be unable to do so. A few might be retained as paid servants, the rest - amounting to many thousands - would end up on the streets, deprived of any means of support. In such a case, at such a time, effective abolition would appear to be worse than the offence, for the slave's lot is not always wretched: there are good masters as well as bad.

Raphael's other examples, though arguably not out and out slavery, were to my mind more squalid and disheartening because they all involved an element of callous deceit. The Haitian authorities knowingly engage large numbers of their own black people to cut cane for the mestizos of the neighbouring Dominican Republic (who don't stoop to such work) under conditions which the victims only later discover to be servitude.

Indian labourers acquire unavoidable debts to their landlords and are then trapped for life, never earning enough cash to discharge the debt, which may only be the equivalent of £10. We heard a landlord declare that he paid his workers not in kind but cash (as he is supposed to) and assert that they had only told the BBC they were under debt-bondage so as to underwrite their claim for government handout. No doubt it happens, but that still leaves a proportion of the landlords bringing their heads off. Not quite the programme Wilberforce might have hoped for to mark the 150th anniversary of abolition.

That same last Tuesday was used to mark although a few days early, another anniversary, the eruption of Krakatoa, in 1883. Anyway, Sean Maffey's *Once in a Blue Moon* (Radio 4, producer, John Knight) was none the worse for arriving in advance. It was a most vivid reconstruction, its pictorial qualities enhanced by the inclusion of archive recordings of eye-witness survivors.

Two of the week's plays sounded quite exceptionally at home in the medium of radio. Tony Flaherty's *Before I am Old* (Radio 4, August 23rd) told a familiar story but did it with unusual sympathy; English Neil on a visit to Connemara encounters Mary, youngest daughter of a local working family, a relationship beautifully portrayed in all its early innocence. Mary ends up pregnant; Neil does the gentlemanly thing and offers to marry her, but the community, represented by the local priest, closes its solid Irish Catholic ranks on the foreigner and, to his amazement, sends him packing. The play was constructed as a flashback in the frame of Neil's later sentimental visit to the woman he had once loved, a visit calculated to destroy all sentimental feeling; the actors (Antoo Lesser and Marcella O'Riordan) expertly conveying how each had changed. Fine evocative direction by Marilyn Ireland in Belfast.

On Radio 3 *The Barometer* (August 25), translated by James Naughton from Alexandr Kliment's Czech original, included touching, mellow performances by Pauline Lillis and Michael Spice under the direction of Christopher Venning.

David Wade



Richard Gaddes: Determined to buy American

John Higgins introduces the Opera Theatre of St Louis, the first American opera company to come to the Festival, and its creator, Richard Gaddes

The choice of the first American opera company to visit Edinburgh has fallen on the Opera Theatre of St Louis. Ten years ago there was virtually no grand opera in St Louis. The town, which is bisected by the Missouri, relied for its summer music on "the Muni", the Municipal Opera in the city park which supplied, and still supplies, the usual summer stock season of Porter and Kern, Rodgers and Hammerstein, with a big star in each show. In the winter there is, of course, the St Louis Symphony.

The man who introduced opera to St Louis, and vice versa, in this century is Richard Gaddes, an Englishman who learned his trade at Glyndebourne and then Santa Fe before setting up his own company in the Mid-West. During its eight seasons to date the Opera Theatre has attracted both acclaim and critical attention - the last four have all been reported on this page. The reason takes little seeking from the outset Gaddes has been determined to introduce the unfamiliar both in terms of repertoire and singers. There

must have been a temptation to go for the tried and tested in a city with little or no operatic tradition, but it was resisted. Each year the St Louisans were given a familiar work, a *Traviata* or a *Rigoletto*, but at the same time they are encouraged to sample what cannot be tasted elsewhere.

As with the operas, so with the singers, Gaddes decided to steer away from the hardened campaigners of the touring circuit and instead took a chance on singers just embarking on their careers. Here the background of Glyndebourne and Santa Fe clearly had an influence, because both houses have for long had a justified reputation for seeking out and nurturing young talent. Gaddes, however, added another element in vocal terms he was determined to buy American, although his producers and conductors could come from elsewhere.

In the season just ended in St Louis there was one Canadian mezzo, but the company was American. And United States citizens make up the entire cast at Edinburg. The choice of

repertoire is also thoroughly representative of what might be heard in St Louis: a concert of Sunday Evening Fops to show off half-a-dozen members of the company (tomorrow), followed by two performances each of Stephen Paulus's *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (September 6, 9) and Delius's *Fennimore and Gerda* (September 8, 10). The first is a European première, while Delius's opera, apart from a St Pancras production some years ago, is scarcely writ bold on the musical map.

"What's to be found in the Operatic Attic?" was a *New York Times* headline for a report on the last St Louis season. And Gaddes reckons that he spends quite a few happy hours up there under the eaves. He also thinks that the Edinburg repertoire virtually selected itself. There was originally talk of Rossini's *La cenerentola*, which Jonathan Miller wanted to direct with Frederica von Stade in the title role. But then Jonathan decided to leave the theatre altogether and that put paid to that. In one way I was not sorry. The

arrangement was for us to sing it in St Louis in English, since that is our tradition, and then return it in Italian for Edinburg, where they prefer opera to be performed in the original language. But that would not have been a facsimile of a St Louis production, which is what I want to present to Edinburg. So we turned to Paulus and back. When John Drummond approached me I was riding high on the success of *Fennimore*. It was a new style of production and it also reflected, I suppose, my natural tendency to shy away from standard pieces. That was our English connexion. So we then decided the American connexion. The first act of *Postman* had just arrived on my desk and I thought it had a very reasonable chance of being a success.

"Maybe it was an irresponsible risk. We'll see. I'm fully aware that there has been little exposure over here to American opera. And those who go along expecting to hear something in the style of Britten, Walton or Berkeley will be surprised to come across a soft-shoe shuffle in Act II. But let's hope that

audiences will be familiar with the James M. Cain novel, or its film versions, and that they will enjoy it as a piece of drama.

The St Louis visit came about almost by accident. The first choice of John Drummond, Edinburg's Festival Director, was Santa Fe. But the negotiations fell through. He bumped into Richard Gaddes one day at the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the deal was virtually arranged on the spot. St Louis have not previously played outside their home state, although they were on the verge of going to Montecarlo a couple of years ago. Gaddes believes that the time is now right for a limited amount of exposure abroad.

"Artistically, I think we have developed and refined a company style and the orchestra [drawn from the St Louis Symphony] is now well used to playing opera. From a practical point of view it stimulates our buying power among young singers because they know that they will come to us with a reasonable chance of being reviewed overseas."

Concerts

Summer Music Elizabeth Hall

Togetherness is a virtue much prized in summer gatherings of musicians, and too often it is assumed that the feeling - comradeship, warmth, and let's have a bash - will make up for the absence of the musical fact.

Thursday's remarkable contribution to what is proving to be an exceptionally successful Summer Music series had, however, every sort of togetherness. A string sextet whose members can scarcely all be familiar with each other gave wonderfully sophisticated accounts of Schoenberg's *Verklarte Nacht* and the Brahms G major Sextet, and even avoided the diet of treacle for lunch, treacle for supper which made the programme at first appear unalluring.

There was a clear identity of purpose between the leader Young Uck Kim and his partner on many occasions, cellist Yo Yo Ma: their playing was intense, though I found Kim rather insistent and unrelaxed. Greater poise was shown

BBCSO/Elder Albert Hall/Radio 3/4

The absence of Tippett's symphonies from the concert hall has been heavy; the burden was lightened on Thursday when the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Mark Elder brought No 2 to the Proms.

Whether unfamiliarity was breeding contempt or merely uncertainty as to whether the music was likeable stuff or not, the number of disruptive, ill-timed exits and entrances from the auditorium rivalled those in the pit at the legendary first performance.

But for those who stayed, the aural preparation of Beethoven was rewarded by a performance which took its salute to the earlier master, sensed the vibrant undercurrents of Vivaldi and Stravinsky, and through it all spoke the name of its

Nineteen-year-old Brian McCarron went through the windscreen of his car after a head-on collision with a heavy lorry last November. He broke both legs, his nose, a wrist, lacerated his face, virtually destroyed one eye and severely damaged the other. The only lucky thing for him that day was that the accident occurred within the area covered by the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, where life-saving techniques, particularly in emergencies, have been extensively developed by more than a decade of the emergency.

Only 1 per cent of patients admitted to Ulster hospitals, even at the height of the troubles, were victims of sectarian violence, but the Royal Victoria sits in the hot spot and all patients have benefited from the advancement of its doctors' skills.

Channel 4's *Trauma* last night, produced and tightly

on the first viola line by the superlative Nobuko Imai, who concentrated all Brahms's effusive warmth into her melodies and gave the strange open-string oscillation of the Sextet's first movement an eerie quality.

Csaba Erdelyi matched her, gesture for gesture, with complete precision, as did Christopher Warren-Green (who played second violin to Kim with restraint and careful blending).

Though there were moments when the group's sense of internal tuning faltered - in the lovely tinge of E flat in the Brahms G major opening, and, more oddly, in the simplest variation of the Adagio - the general matching of phrasing and feeling was very natural, the balance unforced. There was heavy peasant fun in the Trio of the Brahms Scherzo, but the finest moments were both visionary: the rippling arpeggios in the last section of the Schoenberg, with cello pizzicati perfectly swept; and the glorious coda of the Brahms Adagio, rising up over a seemingly endless cello pedal note.

Nicholas Kenyon

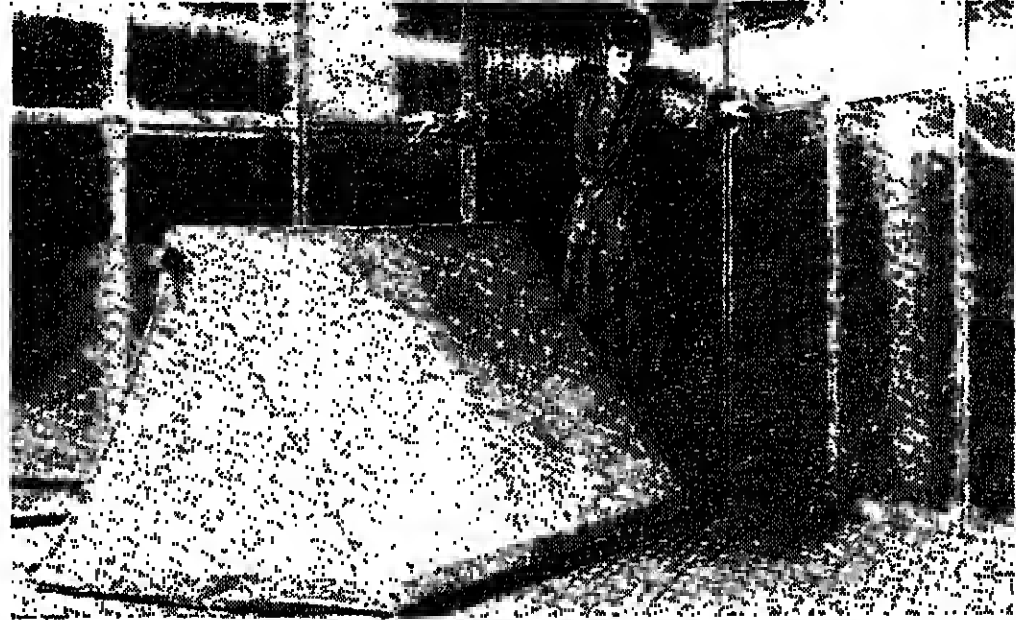
composer with clear, often beguiling conviction.

At times the joyful vigour of the opening movement, the teasing baroque of the last, were softened by an edge of reserve; but the work's sheer inventive energy broke out time and again in the delicate, engaging of the cogwheels of strings and wind, the light spring within each harp-dappled episode, the deft interplay of levels of density.

The tenderness of the second movement was poised between the deliquescent trumpet, piano and harp solos and a balletic, Stravinskian bending of the supple orchestral body as energy seemed contained in stasis. And Mr. Elder's eye for detail enjoyed the third movement's pattern of tickling and kicking rhythms - again a little on the safe side of risk-taking but still constantly engaging.

Hilary Finch

Theatre Worlds apart



Great and Small Vaudeville

Both Strauss's play has had a rough ride on its way to London, and now that it has arrived it would gladden my heart to welcome a work that has succeeded on other European stages as well as saluting the mad courage of Glenda Jackson and her management in launching a large-scale experimental German piece in the West End. On the strength of Keith Hack's production, though, I do not feel I have yet seen the play.

Great and Small first appeared in 1978 in a five-hour production at the Berlin Schaubuhne, where it was described as an alienated woman's journey through the desolate landscape of West German consumer society. Its method - which does survive on the Vaudeville stage - is that of the expressionist *Staatendrama*, that discards articulated plot in favour of a series of dislocated tableaux held together only by

Glenda Jackson and tent person

the hero's search for self-realization. It is not a style that has ever found much favour over here; but one can imagine it working powerfully in the case of Strauss's *Lotte*, a separated wife vainly striving for human contact in a world of closed doors, and finally taking up residence in a hospital waiting room where, like the audience, she will sit forever awaiting treatment.

In the Vaudeville version we first see Lotte sitting alone at a cafe table during a package tour of Morocco where she has not managed to speak to a single soul. The isolation intensifies when he comes home. Her husband throws her out again; she finds brief refuge in a tenement basement, and then sets off in pursuit of old friends and relations only to meet renewed defeat. Marooned on a pile of rubbish, she has an angry encounter with the Almighty, and proceeds on her journey to the waiting room convinced

that she is one of the 26 righteous persons of Jewish myth.

Some impression of the surrounding world does filter through: a place where no mail arrives except catalogues, outdoor furniture has to be chained to the concrete garden and marriages are kept going only by ever-growing wardrobes. But whatever David Essinger's efforts to relate the play to England, the result gives you scant invitation to identify this society as your own.

Glenda Jackson goes through most of the evening wearing a brave, brilliant smile in calculated contrast to her circumstances. She opts throughout for a low-status relationship towards those who reject her. Her one great outburst, played with the self-confronting cries of a hurt child, is fine emotional acting, but it does not rescue her from appearing simply blind and uncomprehending rather than enabling you to view the events through her eyes.

Irving Wardle

LSO/Abbado Usher Hall

So urging an undercurrent is the Vienna 1900 theme of this Edinburgh Festival that almost every concert has one rushing here mentally to the main festival exhibition. There were in the Usher Hall on Thursday, listening to a performance of Schoenberg's *Erwartung* such as can rarely have been equalled, knowing that only half a mile away in the National Museum of Antiquities rest for the moment a selection of his paintings on the subject and a page of his manuscripts.

All the books tell us that Schoenberg composed his fevered operatic monologues in nine days, from which one might suppose the autograph is one long Beethovenian scrawl. Not a bit of it. The notation resembles rather that neat, precise, little calligraphy of a Webern, and whether Claudio Abbado has seen it or not, he certainly knows that the plunging speed, the variety and the intensity of Schoenberg's expressions depend on the realization being as near perfect as human musicians can make it. The London Symphony Orchestra came pretty close.

I wondered if the score can ever be sounded so surely beautiful. The obvious opportunities for beauty are there, of course, in the odd strands of yearning string music that come like dislocated memories of earlier, more innocent music,

Paul Griffiths

perhaps even of Strauss Waltzes. Mr Abbado and his players duly made these sigh. But their rarer accomplishment was to defeat ugliness of sound wherever it became possible, not by muting effects but rather by placing them like stars against a great, distant vault. The menace was still there, in the rattle of low brass, the march of a bass clarinet, the shriek of trumpets, but in respect to it was an extraordinary appeal. *Erwartung* turns out to be a score brimming over with icy consciousness, not just a nightmare.

As such it provides all the decor the work needs. No visible scenery could possibly keep up with the pace of performance like this, and Schoenberg's own smudgy canvasses are surely not stage designs but only attempts to set down instantly from performance going on inside his head.

Afterwards came something almost as uncommon: a performance of the "Eroica" Symphony that sounded heroic but never vainly so. The LSO were in respectful mood, the wind led by delightful solos from flute and oboe, the strings quick in response to changes of colour and texture, the three horns nicely cast as rough diamonds with the mud of the chase on their boots. And Mr Abbado directed them superbly in a manner that looked forward to the splendours of Wagner and Bruckner but kept the comparative naivety of Vienna 1900.

John Kenyon

Dance

like sugar-icing gnomes in plus-fours; the women have lace skirts and put on tiaras for the final.

Giving this work on the same bill as Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No 2* invites unkind comparisons, but what a joy it is to see the latter ballet again, and so exuberantly danced by a cast who find no need to be pompous about its ceremonious choreography.

Merrill Ashley's bravura technique makes the ballerina role ring bright and clear, and she has developed a joyousness to enhance her always brilliant dancing. Adam Liders brings a good bearing and secure dancing to the male lead, but should look at the ballerina, not the audience, when landing on one knee.

John Kenyon

The evening's other London premiere was *Souvenir de Florence*, in which John Taras decks out a minor Tchaikovsky suite with conventional encounters and yearnings, all soaked in a heavy fake-Russian sauce. In a less distinguished repertoire it would possibly seem more acceptable, but only after burning Roube Ter-Antunian's costumes. The men look

John Kenyon

A film by Joseph Losey starring Ruggiero Raimondi and Kiri Te Kanawa. 31 August 1983 at 7pm. Admission £2.50. Box office: 01-928 3191.

John Kenyon

at the Royal Festival Hall.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Russian roulette

The chances of the Bolshoi Ballet coming to London next year are as evenly balanced as a ballerina in the Rose adagio. Tony Banks, MP for Newham North West and chairman of the GLC arts committee, says it will be decided within a month, strictly on questions of costs, though the thing that most makes him want the Russians to come is the displeasure it would cause the Government. "They have written outlining their objections because of the invasion of Afghanistan," he says. "I was not very impressed. If they say the GLC should not take an interest in Northern Ireland, I do not see how they can expect us to be interested in what happens in Afghanistan."

Last Tuesday on a train due to leave Waterloo at 19.16 the guard announced: "We are sorry for the late departure of this train. We have two drivers fighting to take this train out and hope the issue will soon be resolved."

Beastly

Impressed, no doubt, by our efforts to find a symbol for the European Currency Unit (now to be the subject of discussion at an international conference on the future of the ECU in Luxembourg next month), the EEC has started looking for a symbol of its own. An animal mascot has been suggested for a publicity campaign aimed at schools. The industrious squirrel, hiding its harvest for future use, has been rejected because of its association with agricultural surpluses. The eager beaver is unsuitable because it is the mascot of the Free Quebecers. The most popular suggestion from Commission staff is a sloth.



Barry Fantoni. "He probably needs more hotels and Marylebone station"

Bangering

I rather think the Meat Promotion Executive, who sponsor the British Sausage Bureau, has entered my PHSausage joke competition for which the Bureau's Sausage Time clocks are prizes. The Executive's latest press release claims: "British sausages do not need pricing." After the shattering explosions under my grill yesterday morning, though, I reckon it is still a sensible precaution, at least until Mrs PHS resumes culinary duties.

End of run

The village which was BBC-TV's *Clochemerle* in the serialization of Gabriel Chevalier's classic yarn of the construction of a French village *peasant* is turning fiction into fact. Vaux-en-Beaujolais, which denied it was Chevalier's model for *Clochemerle* until the BBC chose to film there, celebrates the opening of an up-to-date concrete *pissoir* tomorrow afternoon with a gala fete and ball. Though modest in size the new facility makes an important concession to modernity. It caters for the needs of both sexes.

No change

The Black Watch were the victors of Waterloo yesterday for the third year running. The battle was won on the playing fields of Werl in Germany, where they are stationed, with the Scots, who actually won their main battle honours days before Waterloo at Quatre Bras, acting the part of the Irish, Welsh and even the English. The enemy was provided by Belgian grenadiers, while local Germans, led by their fire brigade, played the Prussians. They were under strict orders not to turn up an hour late, as they did in 1815.

During the run of the 7/84 theatre company's popular show *Men Should Weep* at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, a local jobber tethered a stuffed reindeer to the front of the building with a notice attached: "I am the first in tonight's show." The theatre kept the beast on to advertise their next show, starring Warren Mitchell. Now, after a two-month closure, the theatre administrators find the animal has been whisked off to the Edinburgh Festival among 7/84's props, and is currently appearing in their presentation, *Women in Power*. "We want the reindeer back", a spokesman for Stratford East protests. "We resisted him, and we were planning to put him in our pantomime". PHS



Top right: Count Alexei Nikolaevich Tolstoy. Top left: Tolstoy with Konstantin Simonov and H. G. Wells in Leningrad, 1934. Above left: Visiting the Soviet air force in 1943. Above right: Relaxing in the country with his third wife, Ladmilla, 1941

The Tolstoy in Stalin's pocket

In order to ensure the presence of the celebrated writer Count Alexei Tolstoy among her house guests that summer, the well-known society hostess Valentina Khodashevich took the precaution of sending him an invitation months before, in the winter. The count was, after all, a great catch. He was the country's most famous novelist and playwright and a nobleman of high rank, and also the richest man below her ruler in all Russia. In country houses, and city mansions, he was always in demand: charming, affable, talented and generous, his presence ensured the success of any house-party, reception or dinner.

"My husband and I," Mme Khodashevich recalled, "invited Alexei Nikolaevich and his wife to come to us in the summer at the village of Dubovo on lake Seliger, where we had a delightful, fair-sized house. For the use of guests we kept a couple of yachts and several canoes. The house was situated on the edge of the lake. Generally we cruised in our canoes to the opposite shore, where there was a marvellously sandy beach."

Readers may justifiably imagine that we are back in the palmy days of Tsar Alexander II, when peace reigned from Baltic to Pacific, the spirit of revolution had been stilled, and the Russian nobility led a life of unimaginable luxury and pleasure. Those unfamiliar with Russian history may be surprised to learn that Count Tolstoy's holiday was not spent in the summer of 1890... but that of 1940. Twenty-three years earlier revolution had swept away Russia's aristocracy in torrents of blood, and in its place had proudly risen the world's first socialist state.

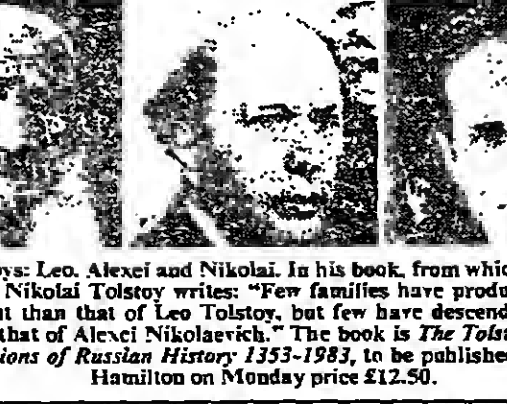
by Nikolai Tolstoy

ALEXEI TOLSTOY'S reputation has never waned within the Soviet Union, and he continues to be the subject of innumerable biographical and literary studies. This is not surprising. What is on the face of it extraordinary is his physical survival during Stalin's purges. Why did he continue his life in favour, seemingly never in danger, at a time when so many of his fellow-writers disappeared? His noble and emigre background, together with his earlier anti-Soviet writings, cried out after all for his identification as a Trotskyite wrecking or White Guard saboteur.

Two factors served to preserve him. The first was that innate historical awareness that enabled him to gauge the likely direction of the Revolution. From the moment Stalin's ambitions became clear Tolstoy was second to none in adulating the new dictator. But grovelling alone was not enough - had it been there would have been no purges. Other writers could ladle on the same syrup in even greater quantities, but that did not save them. What Stalin appreciated about Alexei Tolstoy was that his well-received novels and plays provided the Revolution with lasting historical antecedents, and more than any other created the mystique that the communist triumph in 1917 was the logical outcome of centuries of historical partition. In particular he skillfully inferred that Stalin's inspired leadership had likewise been presaged in ages gone by.

His reward was commensurate with his efforts. He received the Stalin Prize of 100,000 roubles and was enabled to enjoy a lavish life-style. In Stalin's eyes to be the apotheosis of Peter the Great conferred enormous benefits. It exonerated the fearful suffering inflicted by a Russian autocrat on his people, on the grounds that this was a necessary sacrifice on Russia's path to greatness. It required a man of gigantic courage, prepared if necessary to sink his arms to the elbows in blood, to drag this stagnant country forwards.

Alexei's fascination with the figure of Peter the Great dated from before the Revolution. In 1928-29, he came back to the subject with a play entitled *On the Back*. In 12 scenes, ranging from 1698 to Peter's death in 1725, the picture provided, similar to that in *Peter's Day*, written in 1918, the squalor of his personal life, his epilepsy and the brutal pointlessness of his career were again highlighted. But inevitably the fuller perspective of the play took more note of Peter's mighty achievements, such as the building of St Petersburg and the victory of Poltava. Fearful of being accused of conniving at a presentation too sympathetic to a Romanov, the Moscow theatre director invited Stalin himself to the dress rehearsal.



Three Tolstoys: Leo, Alexei and Nikolai. In his book, from which this article is extracted, Nikolai Tolstoy writes: "Few families have produced a higher literary talent than that of Leo Tolstoy, but few have descended to one as degraded as that of Alexei Nikolaevich." The book is *The Tolstoys: Twenty-four Generations of Russian History 1353-1983*, to be published by Hamish Hamilton on Monday price £12.50.

When the great man left early the worst was feared. Many people, after all, had marked the inevitable parallel between sufferings experienced by the masses under Peter's dragging with the use of forced labour occurring in their own time during the implementation of the first five-year plan. The agitated director, Bersenev, ran out to try to placate the testy leader before he could enter his car. Meanwhile critic after critic mounted the stage to voice their indignation at the disgraceful piece of monarchist propaganda to which they had just been subjected.

There was another significant aspect, one which in all probability accounts for Tolstoy's immunity from harm during the lopping of thousands of loyal heads in the late 1930s. Tolstoy had been at pains in his novel to remind his readers that the Tsar's ablest servants had been another Count Tolstoy. Peter Andreievich, Peter Tolstoy had initially joined Tsar Peter's enemies, but after staying in Western Europe returned to render his master brilliant services. But it was not so much this parallel which struck Stalin, but that with Count Leo Tolstoy, the greatest ornament of nineteenth-century Russian culture had been one Tolstoy, and now Stalin's Russia possessed another. The leader's immortality was assured.

The elevation of Stalin-Peter was far from being Alexei Tolstoy's only service to his master. It had not escaped his notice that a far more apt parallel was to be found in the prison of Tsar Ivan the Terrible, who had organized an effective predecessor of the NKVD, the *oprichniki*, with which he waged war on the Russian people. In 1942 Alexei began work on two plays depicting Ivan the Terrible's heroic struggle to create a modern Russian state. Maybe he killed vast numbers of people, but this was necessary in order to overcome the fractious dissent of the boyars and the ignorance of the people. As for the *oprichniki*, well, they were a self-sacrificing group of warriors devoted to protecting the country. Tolstoy's original version had them defending the autocracy, but Stalin himself intervened to suggest a more tactful version. Most startling of all was the elevation to generous patriot of the sadistic chief of the *oprichniki*, Malyuta Skuratov. Clearly Stalin believed that Beria too deserved some credit.

Roy Strong My trunk route grand tour

A cedar of Lebanon guards our house. I look out on it as I write. It is supposed to have been planted in 1815 and acts as a mnemonic for the date of the battle of Waterloo but, in another sense, it is the first tree that I ever really got to know well. It has been a good friend and a noble teacher because I have been frantically looking at and planting trees ever since.

It is an even better inspiration to be exposed to the enthusiasms of a genuine "tree man". The late Sir Richard Cotterell, a peppery soul and guardian of a mighty Repton landscape, was such. His eye and mind were all trees. Once, to mark the coronation, he walked me round his creation. Queen's Wood, just outside Hereford. We paused at each tree or group of trees, considered its form and shape, when it was planted, and its rate of growth. There was almost a solemnity about our stately progress.

With another "tree man", Lawrence Banks, one swoops from one trunk to the next at Hergist Croft, exclaiming over its texture and colour with a fervour of aesthetic appreciation more generally applied to an antique textile. It is always exciting to be in touch with a way of looking at things which most of us bypass. For most ordinary mortals, trees are just things that happen to be there. I would quite like one day to go on a great trees of Britain tour in the same way as we visit our cathedrals or country houses. I for one have already begun to compile a personal anthology of favourites.

I would have to begin with the ancient oaks of England, and none for me can surpass those in the royal chase at Hatfield. I was once taken to see them by the late Doughty Marchioness of Salisbury in a bar-ming cross-field expedition to trace the eighteenth-century road that still remains there, a monument to times past when roads actually went round trees. There they were, vast gnarled specimens that must have witnessed many a royal hunting party, and beneath one of which the young Elizabeth I was sitting on the November day that the news came from London of her sister's death.

That, sadly, is now only a stump, so I would have to include another royal tree, the Boscombe oak, or rather its descendant. That still flourishes, although I have only seen it across the fields from the mount in the garden. The original perished as a result of the onslaught of souvenir hunters avid for twigs and whole branches. I would also have to include the vast evergreen ofholm oak at Westbury-upon-Severn, so I would have to include another royal tree, the Boscombe oak, or rather its descendant. That still flourishes, although I have only seen it across the fields from the mount in the garden. The original perished as a result of the onslaught of souvenir hunters avid for twigs and whole branches. I would also have to include the vast evergreen ofholm oak at Westbury-upon-Severn, so I would have to include another royal tree, the Boscombe oak, or rather its descendant. That still flourishes, although I have only seen it across the fields from the mount in the garden. 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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A GRAVEL VOICE FROM ETRICK

Mr David Steel's missive from Tweeddale, Ettrick and Ram-

bollet has put his party in a tizzy. The tone suggests that the post-influenza asthma of which his GP has spoken has not completely cleared up.

It was heading that way in any case. Sections of the party are still sore that the joint manifesto to which the Liberal leadership subscribed with their partners in the SDP was over-compromised.

Mr Steel has quite rightly made this a matter fundamental to his remaining leader. What matters is not that the last word on the manifesto should be personal to the leader but that it should remain with the parliamentary leadership and not be given to some extra-parliamentary body.

With the awful warning before them of what happened to the Labour Party when it fought an election on a manifesto which most of its shadow ministers would have liked to disavow and had to explain away, and with a well-organized move to block the proposed amendment, it is unlikely that the critics of Mr Steel's "autocratic" leadership will win that point against him.

Mr Steel's letter ranges more widely than the details of the party constitution. It enters into personalities. He demands to

know why Mr Tony Greaves has not been up before a drum-head court martial for disgraceful conduct in the face of the enemy. Mr Greaves is chairman of the Association of Liberal Councillors which put out a distancing document of its own about policy in the course of the election campaign. He represents the pavement school of Liberal politics, which has usually been at odds with the party's shadow statesmen.

Mr Steel also demands to know why someone is not doing something about the Young Liberals, cavorting with Mr Ken Livingstone and Sinn Fein, and vulnerable, he suspects, to entrapment. He also has a smack at Mr Cyril Smith for not putting his weight in the Liberal "front bench" in the Commons.

One has supposed that since Mr Steel has so long and so successfully laboured in the vineyard of the Liberal party he must have become acclimatized to the disorderly dotiness that has always enriched its proceedings. Something has now happened to turn indulgence into exasperation.

That something - apart from any change in how Mr Steel personally is feeling - must be the fact that the Liberal party now stands within reach of political power. It is no longer just a ginger group, a vehicle for political ideas on their way in or their way out, a phenomenon of the Celtic fringe, a gymnasium for working out political fantasies. There is now a real possibility that it may come to form a major part of the first alternative to Conservative government.

Mrs Thatcher, according to an

interview she gave the other day, now sees the Liberal party in that light. It is certainly Mr Steel's ambition to make it so. That was the heart of the letter.

I am certainly willing and indeed keen to continue as leader, but only on the basis that the party itself is gearing its efforts to offering an alternative government to Mrs Thatcher at the next general election.

If it wants to ponder about on the sidelines I will be happy to remain a loyal member but not to continue indefinitely as leader.

Mr Steel is not the first leader of the Liberal Party to try to galvanize his membership in the serious pursuit of political power. Mr Grimmond marched his troops (imagery aptly presaging laughter), and Mr Thorpe whetted their appetite with the red meat of politics. But Mr Steel is the first postwar Liberal leader to stand in a position from which the appeal sounds forth as more than braggadocio.

If the Liberal Party is to convince the voters that its trust and its men are fit to be trusted with a primary share in government it will have to reform its political manners. Responsibility calls for another style. If Prince Hal is to become King Harry, foolishness will have to be banished from the court. The party will also have to get its developing relationship with the Social Democratic Party right. Mr Steel is abundantly justified in trying to concentrate the minds of his colleagues and supporters on these matters ahead of their annual conference. Whether his abrasive way of doing it will go down well or badly is at this stage a question for specialists in the psychology of Liberalism.

ODD MAN OUT AT MADRID

Plucky little Malta again stands alone, defending itself from the combined onslaught of the thirty-four other countries represented at the European security conference in Madrid. It is a matter of considerable significance that a meeting of foreign ministers next month could provide an opportunity for the US Secretary of State George Shultz to hold talks with the Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in an effort to improve relations between the super-powers. But the Maltese delegation appears to give more weight to including in the final conference document an agreement on holding discussions on security and arms reductions in the Mediterranean area.

Insisting on these worthy aims, however, has prevented the participating countries - the United States, Canada and all European states except Albania - reaching the consensus required for the formal signing of the document concluding the three-year Madrid follow-up to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). In desperation Spain has now arranged a "political meeting" in September to endorse the final agreement, but unless Malta yields beforehand, this will not have formal CSCE standing.

The strains in East-West

relations have provided more than enough complex problems to keep delegates arguing interminably without introducing the Pandora's box of the Mediterranean and Middle East. Nonetheless, at Helsinki in 1975 Malta managed to insert in the Final Act a vague reference to the relationship which exists "in the broader context of world security, between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean area". At Belgrade in 1978 Malta pressed successfully for a gathering of experts on Mediterranean cooperation to be held the following year in Valletta, but at the Madrid follow-up the Maltese delegation failed to win support even from the non-aligned countries. Neither the Finns nor the Swedes succeeded with their compromise proposals, and in a rare show of agreement both the United States and the USSR have denounced Malta for hocking the conclusion of the conference.

In Malta itself Mr Dom Mintoff's ruling Labour Party is opposed on this issue by the Nationalist Party, which argues that he has no mandate from the other Mediterranean countries to speak on their behalf, and agrees with the general European view that his proposals are impractical. Mr Mintoff, however, en-

couraged by the support he received at the last non-aligned summit in Delhi, persists in his efforts to promote Malta as the meeting place of European and northern African civilizations and to give it an international role greater than that of most countries with a population of less than a third of a million.

The real significance of the CSCE is as an international forum to discuss the observance of human rights in participating countries - an element in the trust without which no genuine disarmament is possible. Yet delegates have agreed to hold a European disarmament conference next January in Stockholm, allowing Moscow to treat it as a separate and more important matter than the discussions on human rights at Ottawa in May 1982 and on family reunification in Berne in April 1986 - to be held only months before the next general follow-up conference in Vienna.

The principles underlying disarmament and human rights are related and should be defended with the stubbornness now shown by Malta in less practical ways. The frustration felt by negotiators at the CSCE is understandable, but for all its shortcomings it is a forum worth preserving.

SHAKEN TO THE CORE

A claim that parts of Kent and Canvey Island, with its vulnerable concentration of oil and gas installations, could be hit by a "large earthquake" invites scepticism, like a report that the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse had asked for clearance to land at Heathrow. There is something millenarian, almost Monty Pythonesque about it. Yet it was the subject of discussion this week in Brighton at that serious forum, the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr Robert Muir Wood, a senior geologist with the engineering consultants, Principia Mechanica, displaying the fruits of his research into British earthquakes since the year 600, ended with a plea for the British, who "still believe earthquakes are about as English as pizza", to take the matter seriously and imitate the French and Germans by establishing a national network of monitoring stations.

Whitehall brims with contingency plans for disasters of all kinds, both man-made and acts of God, but not, it seems, for

earthquakes. A spokesman for the Cabinet Office, which houses the Civil Contingencies Unit, said there was nobody with a set of carbonophones crouching in a Whitehall cellar listening for tremors. Though the Institute of Geological Sciences, a part of the Natural Environment Research Council, does have a monitoring capability of a sort.

Dr Wood identified a number of earthquake-prone areas in Britain, one of which runs from the Pembroke Coast via Swansea to Hereford. A small earthquake in Hereford exactly eight years ago brightened the pages of an August Bank Holiday Weekend edition of *The Times*, as it surprised a sergeant in the Special Air Service at the Bradbury Barracks, who admitted that his regiment was not trained to withstand such shocks. It also inconvenienced a police sergeant who confessed that it has taken him an hour to console his parrot which fell from its perch. The headline "Earth tremor shakes Hereford Parrot" reflects just the kind of

flippant attitude Dr Wood wants the British to drop.

Certainly, it cannot have been much fun in Colchester in April 1884 when chimneys toppled, church walls cracked and tiles poured off roofs. The phenomenon was taken much more seriously in the last century. The village of Comrie on the rim of the Highlands was dubbed by the Scots as their "earthquake capital". The first seismometers in Europe were installed there in 1840.

But at least until really shaken, Dr Wood's fellow-citizens will not be easily persuaded that they ought to be worrying about the movement of tectonic plates beneath the British crust. They have other things on their minds. If his strictures do find a response in Whitehall, the Home Office's revived civil defence effort might be adapted for post-quake operations. And should the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse land at Heathrow, well, the SAS are trained to handle that.

Surely the administrative history of the last 35 years in Britain and elsewhere must at last have convinced all objective observers that these "mainstream policy jobs" in the centre of the government machine require - cannot be well done without - a combination of strong intellectual powers, complete political objectivity, a pleasant personality, genuine motivation for this form of public service and a lifelong capacity for self-education.

These qualities can be, and often have been, found in people recruited to the Civil Service for particular

specialist functions, but such paragons are rare.

Let us never forget how vital these posts are, how ineffective training courses are in developing the necessary qualities in those that do not have them, and how carefully therefore their holders must be preselected - as Trevelyan and Northcote pointed out in the 1860s, as Haldane reiterated in 1918 and as Edward Bridges maintained to the end of his distinguished career.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. GRIFFITHS,
2 St Albans Villas, NW5.

Second thoughts about the Rhine

From Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeeoch

Sir, General Sir David Fraser has argued (August 19) that the advantages which you ascribe to making BAOR out of the line are illusory. In supporting him, I would go further. Such a course would, I believe, be prejudicial to Britain's security and endanger the peace of Europe.

The political reasons for the British commitment remain of overriding importance. These hinge, surely, upon the necessity to provide the Federal German Republic, as a non-nuclear Power, with adequate security. Failure to do so might well bring about a perception of insecurity in West Germany which would lead to a demand for increased armed strength. This the Soviet Union could only view with apprehension, with the possibility of pre-emptive attack.

The feasibility of raising the nuclear threshold by exploiting the much more effective non-nuclear weapons now being developed may well indicate the need to withdraw BAOR. If so, some modification of the British commitment may be agreeable to our Allies as well as to ourselves. Until then perhaps we should re-examine the way in which it is proposed to deploy and operate the not inconsiderable naval and air forces available to Nato in north-west European waters for the defence of shipping and the destruction of Soviet Naval air forces if they should attack.

It seems to be somewhat inconsistent, to say the least, to complain of the West German Navy "wasting resources acquiring an Atlantic capability" while expressing concern about Nato's flanks and rear. As much flexibility of sea-air power as we and our Allies can achieve is essential in order to cope with the unpredictable event" against which you so wisely warn.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MCGEOCH
Southern,
Castle Hedingham,
Halstead,
Essex.
August 20.

From Mr Michael Chichester

Sir, General Sir David Fraser's predictable response (August 19) to your constructive and forward-looking leader (August 17) emphasizes the ingrained opposition which will have to be overcome in any attempt to drag Nato's strategic doctrine into the eighths and simultaneously to modernize Britain's military role in the Alliance in line with developments in technology and weapons, with the changed nature of the Soviet threat and, above all, with the realities of Britain's economic resources.

Those who support so stridently

Green Man mysticism

From Dr Adrian Flick

Sir, Paul Pickering's sceptical reference to Herne the Hunter's "socialist mysticism" (feature, August 4) culpably underestimates Herne's perennial role in English culture - albeit in his better-known persona of Green Man - as the revolutionary new, moon, or challenger of received assumptions.

Popularly acclaimed for his appearances in May Day ceremonies, on pub signs and in cathedrals, the Green Man is no stranger to films. Last Christmas, television viewers had a chance to see Nigel Green play his most celebrated literary namesake in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

That a medieval poem should be filmed at all is proof of the Green Man's power to revive and reinvigorate. And in the poem his role is precisely to challenge the establishment and question its complacency.

Coming forward in time, it is significant that Shakespeare's *Lear* ("fantastically dressed with flowers", IV, vi) should play the Green Man once he has become aware of his

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the continuing and financially extravagant deployment of 35 per cent of the whole British Army (and 10 per cent of the Royal Air Force) in West Germany in peacetime seem unable or unwilling to grasp the strategic and economic realities of the situation which now faces the British Government as it prepares for its next defence "review".

The Soviet military threat is now global and capable of damaging action against Western interests both within and beyond the Nato "area". You rightly point out the dangers of Soviet outflanking manoeuvres and proxy operations for neither of which Britain's Rhine Army is trained or equipped to deal.

Should an attack on western Europe be launched, despite the risks of nuclear escalation that such an initiative would carry for the Soviet Union, the modernization of Warsaw Pact forces, and the increased range and power of many of their weapons would enable them to accompany the assault on the central front with offensive action against lightly defended rear areas throughout the Nato area.

The United Kingdom base, the security of which is vital to enable Nato forces on the Continent to be reinforced and supplied, would be one of the primary targets for such action, which would include air and missile attacks, a mining offensive against ports, and possibly even landing by airborne troops. Yet current British defence policy, as enshrined in the 1981 Defence Review, is to weaken the Royal Navy to a nationally unacceptable level (see your front page article in today's issue - August 23), to make only modest and insufficient improvements in the air defences of the United Kingdom, but to maintain the present West German deployment whatever the costs.

Finally, it has to be realized that with present levels of defence costs Britain can no longer afford to maintain sufficient forces to sustain adequately each component of her historic multi-role contribution to Nato's collective security system and to provide for the security of national interests, whether at home or overseas.

Your leading article outlines some of the initiatives that Britain should take to remedy this situation. When faced with the realities and with constructive ideas to overcome the difficulties which these realities create, it is hard to believe that our Allies would receive them with "astonished concern".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CHICHESTER,
The Mead House,
Tipton,
Birmingham,
B67 7JF.
August 23.

Mobility at the top

From Professor J. Coveney

Sir, Mr George Walden's article "On your bikes at the top" (August 5) suggesting the establishment of a British version of the French Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) is very timely, in view of the changes now taking place in the management of the Civil Service.

However, Professor P. G. Moore has missed the point in his letter (August 11) when he states that we already have parallels to the ENA in the UK in the shape of business schools, such as those at London and Manchester. The French, too, have elite business schools, which are the true parallels with the UK business schools; they even have an international business school, INSEAD in Fontainebleau.

an institution of very high reputation with which we have nothing to compare yet in this country.

The first step on the road to a British version of the ENA is to change the rules regarding mobility at the top of the Civil Service so that people like George Walden can enter public life and return at a later date to the Diplomatic Service without loss of pension rights, etc. Such mobility is perfectly possible in the French Civil Service and encourages a high level of entrant to the ENA who is not dedicated to spending his entire career as a civil servant.

Yours faithfully,
J. COVENEY,
University of Bath,
School of Modern Languages,
Claverton Down,
Bath,
August 16.

Rat and ratings

From the Director of Programmes of TV-am

Sir, it is flattering to be the subject of two leaders in *The Times* in the course of our six short months of life, but alas it seems we can do nothing to please our journalistic elders and betters. When our ratings were down we were addressed as though we were the victims of some media holocaust; now they are beginning to mend we find ourselves transmogrified into a rat. Neither assessment is fair.

In fact TV-am produces more hours of television than any other commercial television company. Of these 21 hours a week, some two hours are devoted to weekends to children's programmes with an additional daily half-hour during school holidays. The nature of this output was spelt out in some detail in our franchise application and thus forms part of our undertakings to the IBA.

Since going on air our children's department has been consistently

Aims of picture gallery at Lord's

From Mr E. W. Swanton

Sir, Reporting on allegations concerning the authenticity of a number of pictures hanging at Lord's you correctly say (*The Times*, August 22) that our display is "nonetheless the most comprehensive collection of cricket memorabilia in the world". Your comment exactly expresses the aim of MCC since its famous treasurer, Sir Spencer Fensholt-Fane, started in 1864 the collecting process which still continues today.

Our object is to present the game and its history, not to rival the Tate Gallery - though several of the pictures whose authenticity is now questioned have been shown there. The oil paintings in dispute are those collected by the first Sir Jeremiah Colman, whose son of the same name, father of the present baronet, Sir Michael, in 1947 generously donated to the MCC the 52 oils and 50 prints illustrated in *The Noble Game of Cricket*, published by his father. No doubt is cast on the prints nor on pictures of high quality such as "Village Cricket", by John Ritchie.

Others are not given a high artistic (or insurance!) rating. In several cases Miss Diana Rait-Kerr, then Curator, whose work in re-assembling the club's collection after the war, incorporating the Colman collection and furnishing the newly-built Memorial Gallery, won general acclaim, expressed in the labels accompanying them her own reservations.

The *Mail on Sunday*, in a long debunking feature, characterized the collection as "to a large degree worthless rubbish", apparently on the evidence of Robin Simon who, with Professor Alastair Smart, is showing in several places an

exhibition with a catalogue entitled *The Art of Cricket*.

These gentlemen in their preface write: "It would have been impossible to write the book at all without long study of the basic collection of works in the Memorial Gallery at Lord's without the privilege of access to the MCC archives, generously made available to us by the Curator at Lord's, Mr Stephen Green, to whom we are indebted for many kindnesses."

Accusing MCC of deception, the *Mail on Sunday* itself deceives. Two matches of 1860 near Charles Dickens' house, Gadshill Place, Rochester, and also the involvement of his 11-year-old son, and repeats exactly the points made in the label in the Memorial Gallery.

Of the 250-odd illustrations of all cricket scenes the exact location of a match or replacement. This is being put promptly in hand. Meanwhile cricket-lovers will no doubt continue to patronize the exhibition of cricketers at Lord's, as do thousands each year, either individually or in groups - at a cost of 50p, not 75p as stated.

All in all it may be thought that Mr Simon has not played with an impeccably straight bat. Yours faithfully,
E. W. SWANTON,
(Chairman, MCC Arts and Library Subcommittee),
Delf House, Sandwich, Kent,
August 25.

Local income tax

From Mrs Laura Grimmond

Sir, Your leading article, "Tied hand and foot" (August 2) suggests that "there is no consensus on an alternative to the rates". But is this any longer true?

On yesterday morning's Radio 4 programme we heard a Tory MP make an eloquent plea for a local income tax, recommended seven years ago by the Layfield committee and supported today by many people of all parties in local government, such as the present convenor of Strathelyde Regional Council and Mrs Patricia Kirwan, of the GLC (author of *Londoners and the Rates*), as well as others in academic circles and financial journalism.

The Liberal Party, at its Assembly in 1982, passed by an overwhelming majority a comprehensive policy on local government finance of which two main features were a reformed system of grant and a local income tax (LIT) while its allies in the SDP also favour it as an additional tax to rates. Amongst those who have given the matter serious consideration it would seem that there is now a consensus that LIT is the only alternative to rates and many believe that it is a better one.

What then is the obstacle to its introduction? It is hardly credible in an age when children speak the language of computer technology which the silicon chip has almost

turned into a toy, that the cost and complication of calculating and collecting LIT prevents its introduction, already found possible in Canada and five European countries including Denmark, whose Kommunes are even an LIT collector. Is it rather that the LIT is anathema to the Treasury, who are unwilling to surrender what they see as a tool of economic management?

The record shows that local government has increased its spending less than has central government. Its follies come under closer scrutiny, where it falls in accountability and in the motivation of its electors to act as effective policemen of local expenditure.

There are 24 million income taxpayers but only 15 million rate payers. Local elections, in which, according to the Director of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, only 17 per cent of those who vote actually pay rates, not surprisingly reflect national rather than local issues. The cure for inadequate democracy is to transfer control to central government, which you, Sir, so well argue is not equipped to carry out the task, but to make it work better by reforming its system of finance. I am, yours etc,
LAURA GRIMMOND,
Old Mansce,
Firth,
Kirkwall,
Orkney,
August 3.

Motorway accidents

From Dr Edmund J. Cantilli

Sir, I have been in London participating in the Institute of Transportation Engineers' fifty-third annual meeting at Kensington Town Hall, and I read your letter to the Editor on August 20 entitled "When speed limits fail to save lives". Mr Michael Macoun, in commenting on August 17's "disaster on the M4", when "a truck careered out of control across the central reservation", points to North America as a case in point, where the "maximum speed permitted is 55-65 mph", as, apparently, a solution.

I cannot speak for Canada (or Mexico), but I would assure Mr Macoun that, in the US at least, the 55 mph limit, which applies to every state, is not enforced and, indeed, is considered unenforceable.

But the solution to accidents of the type mentioned is contained in Mr Macoun's words describing a truck careering "out of control across the central reservation". There is no good reason for a vehicle of any size to be permitted to cross the central reservation. Proper barriers should be erected to prevent this type of accident from ever occurring again.

Yours etc,
EDMUND J. CANTILLI,
Professor, Transportation,
The Polytechnic Institute of
New York,
333 Jay Street,
Brooklyn, NY 11201, USA.

Areas of beauty

From Mr Frederick Gore, RA

Sir, Very little public voice has been given to the concern felt for the village of Luddesdown, in Kent, since the announcement that the Ministry of Defence have purchased one third of the parish's acreage and are seeking permission to use the land as a military training area (mimelaying and general infantry training).

Luddesdown is in the green belt some 23 miles from London. It is already classified as an area of outstanding natural beauty and a special landscape area. Part is in an area of high natural conservation value and it overlaps a site of special scientific interest. This proposal is believed to be contrary to the policies of both borough and county.

The Army's need to find land close to existing training areas can be appreciated. But the respect which the ministry now for ecology and their care of farmland do not in this case allow alarm. To make only one point: there is obvious outstanding natural beauty in the narrow winding lanes with high banks and arched trees (where cars must back to pass). A little unwise improvement can easily destroy the remote charm of a place which is only a few miles from motorways and main roads.

The triangle between Wrotham, Gravesend and Rochester - from Cobham Woods to Birling Gap - is a very special, beautiful and much loved corner of historic Kent. Luddesdown, small and secret at its centre, should be sacrosanct. Such places are easily spoilt. Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK GORE,
Flat 3,
35 Elm Park Gardens, SW10,
August 24.

Missing the point

From Mr Francis Wayne

Sir, Down Under is more picturesque. Examples include: "Slow Tortoise Crossing" (Albany, WA); "Lyrebirds Cross" (Melbourne); "Go Around this Pole" (Kalgoorlie); "Narrow Carle Stop" (no hyphen, Lake Hawea, NZ); "Horrible Bump" (Haast Pass, NZ); "Bends for 35 miles" (Orago, NZ); and even, outside a village south of Perth, WA, "Don't have a bloody crash here We have no bloody hospital".

Yours truthfully,
FRANCIS WAYNE,
Eisg-Brachaidh,
Lochinver,
Lairg,
Sutherland,
August 11.

'Jobs' in Whitehall

From Mr R. C. Griffiths

Sir, Your "Whitehall Brief" of August 2 blandly reports that the present surplus of Government economists at economic adviser level and above - an inevitable result of the specialist mania which swept through Whitehall in the 1960s and 70s - may well be converted into administrators with the prospect of filling "mainstream policy jobs". The same solution is no doubt being advocated for the many similar surplus staff in other graduate specialties.

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A FORD SIERRA: SEE PAGE THREE

2, 3 Travel: Syrian caution, Caribbean carnivals, the Loire and a weekend break in Colmar; Collecting; Eating out

THE TIMES Saturday

4, 5 Values: Backpacking guide and Shopfront; Drink; The Times garden project; Review: Classical records; Theatre and Galleries

7, 8 Critics' Choice of Music, Dance and Films; Films on TV; Bridge; Chess; Family Life on back to school; and The Week Ahead

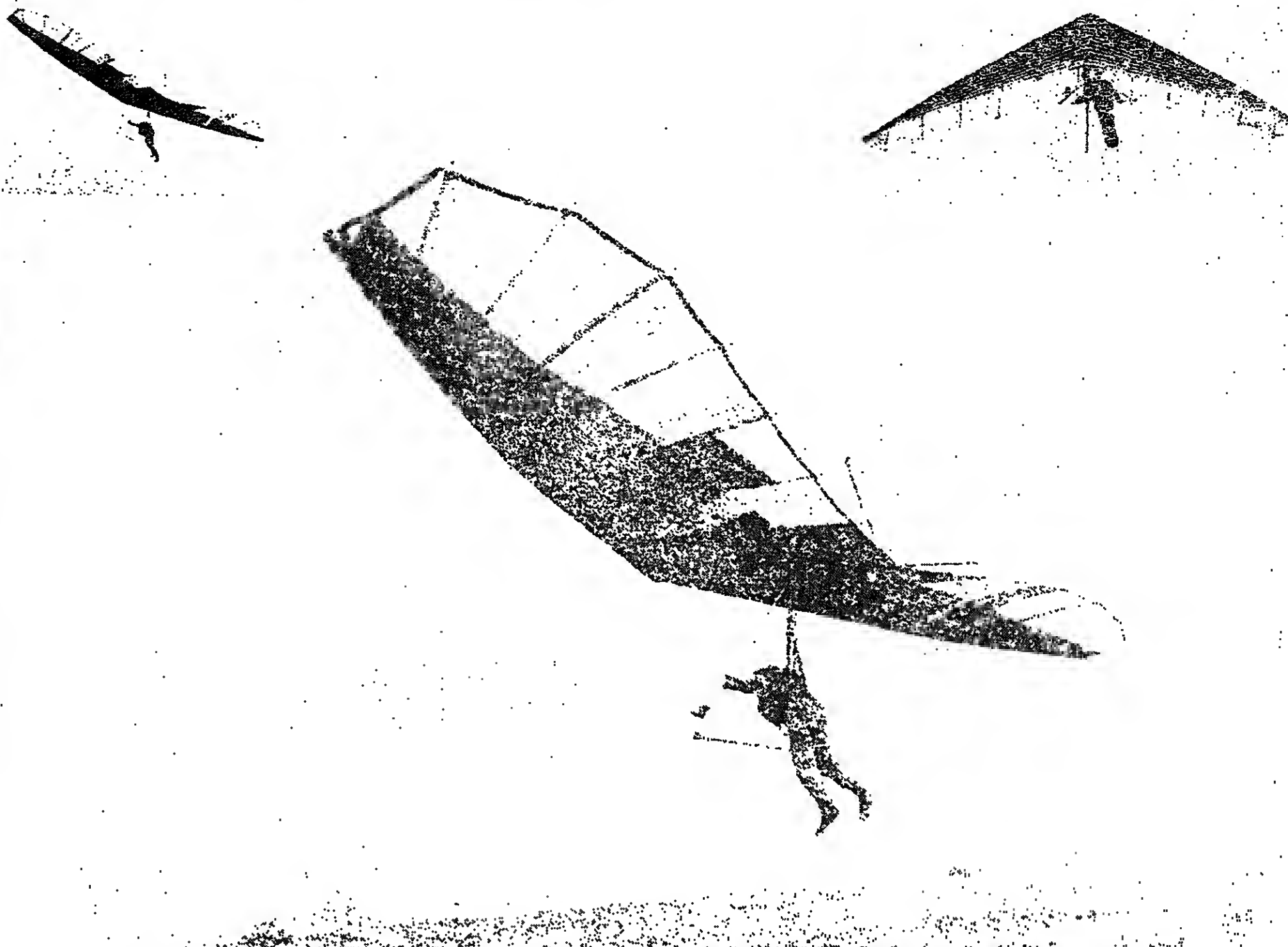
27 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Ronald Faux finds the acceptable face of hang-gliding, a sport which has made great strides towards improving its safety record

Easy glider

Sunday morning in Rochdale and the early sun is trying to melt the empty car park... Small group of student hang-glider pilots... Car roof-racks are loaded with the bright cocoons of burred aircraft...

He insisted that hang-gliding was a perfectly safe sport - even the insurance companies now accepted that as a fact... Gerry Breen, one of the foremost hang-gliding and light aviation pioneers in Britain...



Up on the Downs with the wind in their favour: Members of the Southern Hang-Gliding Club hang fast and loose on their flights at Firi Beacon in Kent

The others disperse, but I stay for my first lesson in the car park... Tony Delaney directs my hands to a large aluminium triangle on the simulator... A hang-gliding accident? Not really. He had found lugging his folded machine to the hilltop such hard work...

and when they leave the training school they usually join their local club... From there a student progresses to tethered flight... There are some crucial manoeuvres to master. The circle turn is often a sensitive one...

hang-gliding is less risky than any other... The agreement between the BHGA and the manufacturers of hang-gliders to sell aircraft only to the holders of pilot certificates is not legally binding...

The governing body of the sport, the British Hang-Gliding Association, is at 167A Cheddton Road, Taunton, Somerset (0823 88140)... The Northern School of Hang-Gliding is at 65 Highbury Avenue, Irlam, Manchester (061775 4422)...

There are very few cases on record in recent years of aircraft failure... In July, Jody beat the both-sex distance record of 139 miles by flying 147 miles in a Californian desert...

Woman in the sky with no hang-ups



Hang-glider: Gill Pyrah

It was a short film I saw that started it, as I remember... Wobbly shots from a camera strapped to the frame of a hang-glider recorded every lift and swoop...

Even so, I had to do it. Now, I'm not sporty... In the next days I learned - too late to be disenchanted - that it does take strength to carry the thing up a hill...

do. Pressed to give an explanation for the discrepancies, Jes answered: money, muscle and rotor cars... In July, Jody beat the both-sex distance record of 139 miles by flying 147 miles in a Californian desert...

Gill Pyrah

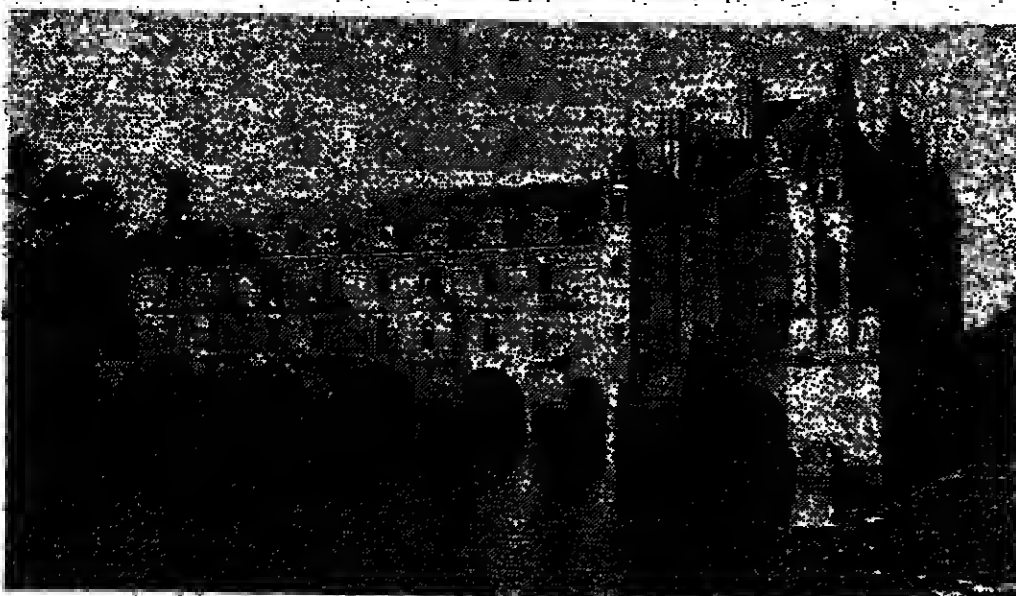
BRITISH HANG GLIDING ASSOCIATION. For list of approved training schools and information pack send 50p to: BHGA Dept TS 167a Cheddton Road Taunton, Somerset TA2 7AH. BE SAFE. DO IT RIGHT. FLY BHGA.

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TRAVEL/2

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Never too old for the open road or fairytale castles



Way to the heart of France: Through the Loire and gains like the Château de Chenonceau

"You will want to see the birthplace of Rabelais", she said, swerving round a juggernaut. Not that we had much choice, with our rucksacks already stacked under the bonnet of her VW and the three of us beeping along the road from Chinon to Saumur. It was, she said, only a few kilometres out of our way. "I will take you."

So there we were at La Devinère, a fifteenth-century cottage festooned with drawings, maps, curling photographs and illustrations of Rabelaisian characters. A shrine, certainly, but not, perhaps the birthplace. Rabelais was born between 1483 and 1494, at a time when custom obliged expectant bourgeois women to set off for their country houses the moment labour began. If one can believe Gargantua - more or less his autobiography - Madame Rabelais brought the great man into the world somewhere along the road we had just travelled, probably soon after a vicious bump.

Outside, Marie, our benefactress, waited patiently, smoking Dunhills. "You are thirsty perhaps? Come, we will have a drink *chez moi*."

Then, in her eighteenth-century kitchen, its long walls crisscrossed with framed posters, we were introduced to her daughter and to the local *rouge*, poured from an unlabelled bottle. Marie was a teacher at a lycée in Chinon. Like us, she had seen the stunning Monet exhibition in Paris. We compared posters (hers, she explained, were to cover cracks in the plaster). We must come and stay, any time. There were many unused rooms.

Returning to the main road, we were shown the schoolhouse of Rabelais, and admired what may be the last fortified farmhouse in the Loire. Then a tedious half-hour by the road-side while the French, with an impressive display of body language, gesticulated their reasons for not giving us a lift. Finally we made it to Saumur, where we were horribly cheated at a tourist café.

"I love France, but I hate the French", an English emigrée told us in Paris. "They're mean-minded and they'll cheat you when they can." Like most generalizations, it told us more about its author than its subject. To the Loire, the heart of France, we found much kindness information offered, maps

given free, a five-mile diversion to take us to a camp site. For these small mercies I was grateful, for it had been many years since I had hitch-hiked. The call of the open road had grown faint. But mortgage, bank loan and the cost of taking a car across the Channel combined to rule out a foreign holiday, or so it seemed. Cunningly, my wife and I caught a bus to Paris (228 return) and thwarted the forces of stringency. From there we took a train to Chartres, and from there we stuck out our thumbs. We reckoned that by hitching and camping we could eat and drink our fill for a week and still return with change from £100. Only the lure of the duty-free shop defeated us.

And, of course, there is simply nothing to beat eating in France. The sensitivity of service, the smiling *bon appetit*, the crusty bread, the prices... For 48¢ in La Cafetière in Vendôme - and picture a quiet garden in July on the banks of the Loire (not to be confused with its grander sister) and 10 candlelit tables as dusk falls - I had lapin à la maitre (wonderfully stuffed), a salad mixed as only the French can mix them, a home-made sorbet.

At midnight we strolled happily back to the municipal camping site in which Vendôme, like most French towns, takes such pride. In front of our tent stood a Gallic figure in pyjamas, shining a torch into the river.

"*Qu'est-ce que vous cherchez, monsieur?*" He answered not, but pointed to the shallows where small fish wriggled, mesmerized by the glare. With a net, he would have been a poacher, but he was just a curious amateur naturalist. And so to bed, we to our £24 Korean tent, he to his caravan, to watch his colour television, for the French take camping seriously. Their tents are mar-

ques. Their barbecues are Le Crusset. Sometimes they have nameplates stuck in the ground: Mon Repose. Vendôme is a pretty town, built on an island, with steep slate roofs and small streets interspersed with hump-backed bridges over rivulets; yet it is off the tourist track and we heard no one English voice there. The glories of the town are its flamboyant abbey church and its twelfth-century belfry, they are said to have inspired the two contrasting towers at Chartres. Barbaz went to school there and left because of poor health. My grandmother, too, was born and raised there; she left for an Englishman. In a café we met three old men who remembered her, and solemnly shook hands, French fashion.

From there to Blois, where a doughty lady picked out the English at the château gate by their shoes and socks, and bloodcurdled us round the almost empty rooms (the French court tended to take their furniture with them; I suspect it all landed up in Versailles). Here we heard the terrible tale of the Duc de Guise, all France behind him, pressing King Henri to return to the true faith. The King stood here, behind the curtain. Two rooms away, his men waited to stab the duke, who fell, mortally wounded at the King's feet, here. And ood to the bedroom of...

From Blois, courtesy of a silent farmer who played Handel on his car cassette as we followed the meandering Loire, to Azy-le-Rideau, a tiny town but boasting a fairytale château: a Renaissance gem, the guide book said. The town keeps it well hidden, unless you pay. Like Blois, its facade is its fortune. It is screened by the trees of the Indre, which like the Vienne, Cher and Loire, feeds



Marjona

the big river as it slugs along to the Bay of Biscay.

The villages on these tributaries are the region's charms, and Azy is no exception, with winding streets, wickerwork and an eleven-th-century church. We camped by the river.

Next day, from a *dégustation* (wine-tasting) in a converted garage, we chose a medium dry local white (13¢); from a *charcuterie*, fresh salmon and Muscadet, pâté and rillettes (strands of soft potted pork); a Touraine speciality.

We climbed past kitchen gardens, not a drop of soil wasted, along roads lined with sweet and horse chestnut and ripening walnut, their verges a profusion of vetch, lords-and-ladies, cornflower and poppies (fierce pollution here), and we feasted.

Coming back we passed a troglodyte dwelling, carved from the soft tufa bequeathed by the retreating sea to the masses and mushroom-growers of the Loire. Ever where you look there are caves. People digging *sous le mur* in Saumur gave the town out only its name, but also a handy place to make and store its wine.

The troglodyte dwelling - three small caves, and the washing hanging outside - warranted a picture, but the creak of the Instamatic on a silent afternoon produced a troglodyte dog which saw us back to Azy at a trot. There, the thunderstorms which killed seven campers that week were gathering rank.

When they came, they timed it well. The *son et lumière* at the moated château, a tantalizing river's bend from our tent, were only through, and we were listening entranced to the lutes, harps and choirs when the first lightning flashed. We thought it was part of the show.

The *son et lumière* that followed was real enough, and lasted all night. The thunder shook the ground and we were terrified to touch the metal tent poles. Despite the skills of the Koreans, and the assurances of the shop assistant, the rain filtered through the nylon and dripped upon us.

I was struck by a thought. "I think", I said, "that I might be getting too old for all this."

"There's a bottle of red in my rucksack," said Susan.

In the Loire, they have nature balanced very nicely.

Peter Brown



Rabelais: Born travelling



Both Michelin and Letra publish camping guides to France. Neither is comprehensive, they just take up rucksack room. Better to arrive at a town and ask for a site - no need to bring if you only have a tent. For general information, the Michelin Guide Vert, *Châteaux de la Loire* is excellent. For eating out try *Le Grand Meaulnes* for light reading, *Le Grand Meaulnes* by Alain-Fournier (Penguin, £1.50), set in the Loire.

Brief encounter with an agreeable Alsatian

From the British point of view the advantage of Colmar is that it is on the Victoria line. The cross Channel rail connection with the 10.30am boat train from Victoria stops at Colmar before rushing off to central Europe. The disadvantage is that in the summer it arrives at 22 minutes after midnight. But never mind, Colmar's grandest hotel, the *Terminus-Bristol*, is right opposite the station entrance and there is no need to fret about taxis.

The next morning, consnoisseurs of railway architecture will note that Colmar's station is one of the finest examples of its kind, complete with clock tower and apple green roof. Even the *buffet de gare* is worth a look. It is vast for a town of this size, with anterooms off the main restaurant, whose high ceiling comes in a different shade of green, lavatorial this time. Waiters doze, passengers eat, reasonably if not exceptionally. It is the ideal setting for a Gallic *Brief Encounter*.

The recommendation, though, for those using Colmar as a base for a few days in Alsace is to stay at the *Champs de Mars*. From the outside it has no charm, but it is in a part, the welcome is warm although the restaurant poor, and the rooms (about £20 for a double) are very well appointed. It is also on the edge of the old city. Cross the Place Rapp, pass a glass-museum shop called *L'Ami Fritz* (an obscure musical joke, I assume, as the best known opera set in Alsace is Mascagni's *L'Amico Fritz* or *L'Ami Fritz*) and you are there.

Colmar is one of the few Alsatian towns to have emerged virtually unharmed from the last war. The forces of General de Lattre de Tassigny captured it almost intact on February 2, 1945 and that is the way, the town council have kept it since. The medieval centre is now almost entirely a pedestrian precinct, with ample displays of *charcuterie* and *foie gras*. In this



part of France the pig and the goose are the joint gods. Most tourists make for the Unter den Linden Museum - no shortage of German names here - and Grünewald's altarpiece. *Le restaurant d'Issenheim*. But do not forget Colmar's mid-nineteenth century theatre: the sightlines may be poor, but the interior is excellently preserved and there are regular visits from L'Opéra du Rhin based in Strasbourg.



Medieval middle: Colmar's centre untouched by war

This is the tourist Colmar, much visited by coaches from the German side of the Rhine, so avoid bank holidays and especially religious ones when picking your date. The real Colmar is probably found down by the banks of the river in the area called, with a remarkable lack of originality, Petit Venise.

The main reason for visiting Alsace is likely to be gastronomic. Both of France's leading guides, Michelin and Gault Millau, need map enlargements for the area between Strasbourg and Belfort. Colmar's best restaurant by several lengths is Schillinger, unimpressive without but seriously elegant within. The service is beyond criticism and the prices are correspondingly on the high side. A Saturday lunch on the *prix fixe* menu with a bottle of '81 Reisinger from Faller (one of the least known but best of the Alsace houses) cost me 300¢

(about £25). It was worth it. To eat on a much more modest scale try La Tauppe down near, *Egit Venise*.

Surprisingly Colmar has very few places offering a *dégustation* of the local wines. To do this properly requires a car - local bus services are terrible - and a trip to the hills. Riquewihr is the obvious place to head for. But I have a soft spot for Ribeauvillé and an even softer one for Kayersberg where the Restaurant Chambard and attached hotel have a growing reputation. Gastronomes are well aware of the longstanding rivalry between Ammerschwihr and Illhaeusern, with the latter running ahead at the moment both in accolades and prices. But some punters reckon that Chambard is coming up on the outside.

For a report on the wines themselves see Jane MacQuitty's column in *Saturday*, April 30. It is rare to find a bad bottle of Alsace, but I would, because of the high acidity of many varieties, counsel not going for the very cheapest. A couple of months ago one of London's leading wine merchants regretted cutting back the number of Alsaces on his list to two because of "lack of consumer interest". He should organize a trip to Colmar immediately to rectify the situation and shame on the consumer!

John Higgins



How to get there: by rail, from Victoria, 288 second-class return. Excursion fare £75.80 for minimum stay of five days plus restrictions on trains used. From Paris the journey takes about five hours, using the TEE to Strasbourg and then changing to the Colmar line. By air, Heathrow to Strasbourg using Air France, then by train. The airport at Strasbourg is busy, sparkling, but the duty-free limited.

COLLECTING

Medalling in modern art and history

The medallion has suffered from a bad reputation for almost 20 years. The pieces issued in their masses by some of the commercial producers have often shown scant regard to any pretence of artistic achievement.

Medals are such collectable items - but they are also for handling and enjoying. Now the British Art Medal Society offers a limited number of artistic cast bronze medals for sale to its members. The society aims to encourage and promote the work of modern medallists and to see that the medal is more readily accepted as an art form. Members are asked to suggest both themes and medallists, though the society's council has the final word. It is hoped that the society will soon be in a strong enough position to advise institutions or individuals how to commission a medal. It hopes, too, that it will soon be able to sponsor an annual medal competition.

The society is already collaborating with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations in organizing a competition for British artists to produce a medal to celebrate World Food Day on October 16, 1983. For artists members there will be forums to discuss the problems of medal making, and it is hoped that there will be exhibitions of the work commissioned.

The British Art Medal Society held its inaugural meeting in April 1982, and it is now firmly established. In its first year the society commissioned eight medals, and members are obliged to purchase just one each from the annual election. Details of the medals are published and illustrated in a lively bi-annual journal, *The Medal*. There are no restrictions on membership and the individual subscription is £10 a year (corporate members £30). All the medals are sold at the same, eminently collectable price of £22, regardless of the medallist.

So far the small membership has spread its commitment to purchase over the full range available. The most heavily

subscribed medal is one by Ron Dutton, which commemorates the founding of the society, and so far 32 have been sold. The society does not pretend to be in the business of mass-marketing. Nearly all of its bronze medals are cast to order and are truly limited editions.

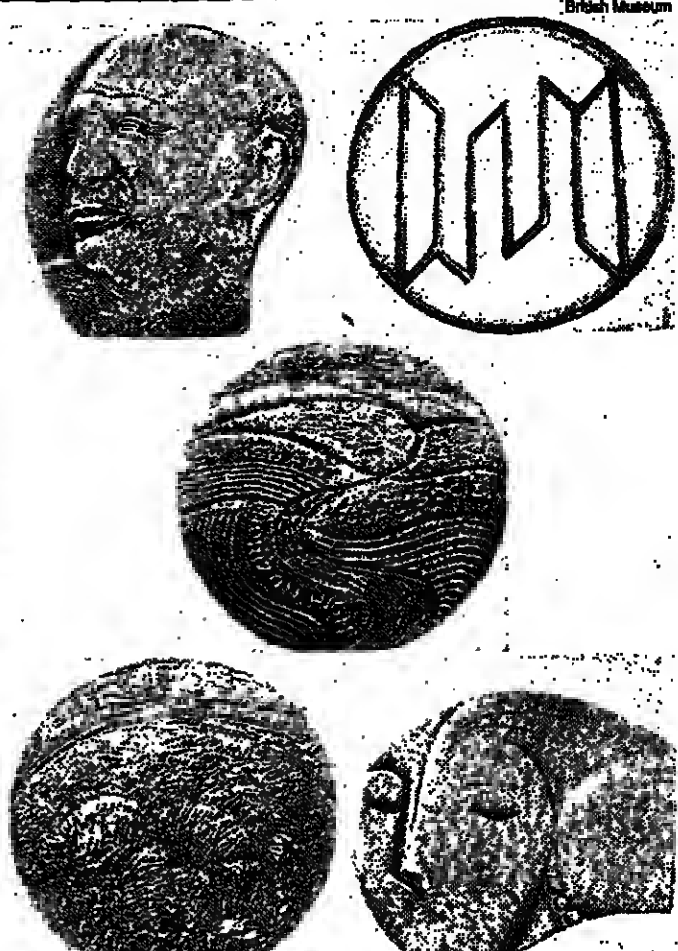
The first eight medals issued illustrate clearly how wide a variation of style, texture and art can be accommodated on a small two-sided piece of bronze. Ron Dutton's medal shows sheep grazing in open moorland, the reverse the reverse dedication to the society follows the plough furrows of an English country scene. Mark Holloway has produced a Muse, a double-sided head, using its own outline as the shape and edge of the medal, while Annabel Eley's carnival theme uses a crowded group of faces for an irregular outline.

Jane McAdam has used much the same restrictions with regard to shape on her portrait medal: Picasso's profile on the obverse forms the reverse outline of a modernist head in the style of Picasso.

Jacqueline Steiger's medal, "Food Furrows", is a wonderfully tactile piece, with deep furrows stretching outwards from a central spine to the edge of the uneven roundish flan. Two medallists, Nigel Hall and John Main, have designed non-representative pieces. Nigel Hall's medal adds a new dimension by being totally openwork, but both make bold use of line and depth.

Finally, Robert Elderton offers a more traditional commemorative medal of the heroine Grace Darling. On the obverse she is shown full face, while on the reverse she and her father row their small coble towards the sinking Forfarshire. The raging storm is emphasized by the great depth of the relief, and the legend, such as it is, follows the lines of the wind and waves on the reverse.

The standard of all the medals is amazingly high. The society has obviously crossed its first hurdle by showing a serious involvement with artists, en-



Striking examples: Jane McAdam's Picasso (top left) with reverse (bottom right); Nigel Hall's openwork bronze medal (top right); Ron Dutton's Sheep Moor II (bottom left) with reverse (centre)

couraging them to discover the medal as a medium of expression which has for so many years been overlooked in this country.

The British Art Medal Society has as its chairman Mr Graham Pollard, deputy director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, and catalogue of the Renaissance medals in the Kress Collection in Washington. It has the strong support of the Royal Society of Arts and the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, and Wolverhampton Polytechnic prints its journal.

There is no government sponsorship as in France and, curiously, Poland. Sadly this means that the society cannot afford to give examples of the

medals to any national or university museum, though medallists must welcome the freedom of working without the restrictions of officialdom.

Daniel Fearon

Those seeking further information or wishing to join the society should contact Mr Mark Jones, the assistant keeper of the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum, who organized the splendid 1978 exhibition, *The Medal - Mirror of history*, and is author of the companion book, *The Art of the Medal* (British Museum Publications, price £9.95). The address to write to is: Mr Mark Jones, Dept of Coins and Medals, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1.

EATING OUT

Out for a duck or at least a chicken Kiev

The cricket season is reaching its climax with two finals at Lord's this weekend: the national club championship today and the village cricket final tomorrow. With the outcome of the NatWest trophy also to be decided there next Saturday, we consider two restaurants in the area which might be suitable for post-match celebrations or commiserations.

AU BOIS ST JEAN
122 St John's Wood High Street, London NW8 (722 0400)
Open Sun-Fri noon-2.30pm; daily 7-11.30pm

A straight Botham six over the Nursery End would probably drop on the doorstep of Au Bois St Jean, so it couldn't be more convenient, and the extensive opening times are particularly useful for those dusk finishes

which Lord's seems to specialise in.

The restaurant's basement premises are on the gloomy side but they have made a virtue of this by constructing a sort of rustic Dordogne-barn interior which gives it both charm and atmosphere. Another French adoption is the *prix fixe* menu with two courses costing £6.50 at lunchtime and £8 in the evening, while the three-course selection is £8 for a lunch, £9.50 for a dinner.

There is a good and varied range of hors d'oeuvres embracing the simple terrine de montagne (rough Languedoc pâté with garlic and whole peppercorns) and the unusual *avocat à la Cannoise*. This is a hot mixture of avocado, crevettes, mushrooms and tomatoes with a dash of pastis which will, depending on your taste, either ruin the dish or make it.

The main courses include French country favourites such as *carré d'agneau*, and there is excellent *crêpe de poisson* gratinée. The *escalope de veau*

chevalière is not quite so successful, being rather swamped with diced onion.

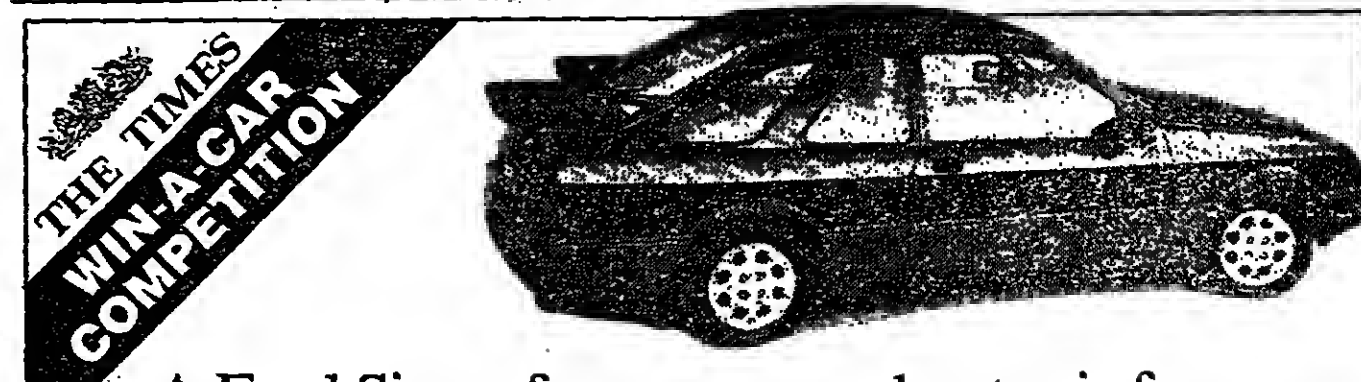
However, the desserts are delicious, with a storming tart tatin (apple-pie, pan-cooked upside down), and a delectable shattering *crème de cognac brûlée aux amandes* - take along your 3lb bat to deal with this one. House wine is a pleasant blanc de blancs at £4.95.

The most popular main course is chicken Kiev - I counted at least 10 of them around me - but you can assert your individuality with a good calf's liver *Lyonnaise* (liver and onions, £4.50) or a supreme of chicken princess (3.60).

The sweet trolley is more like the heavy roller, weighed down as it is with cakes, pastries and gateaux, but if the waiter directs you to a rather creamy-looking cocoon, framed by flaky pastry, "run one" because it is excellent.

While the food seems honest despite its unadventurous nature, the Baracca struck me as a place to go to in a group - a cricket team perhaps?

Stan Hey



A Ford Sierra for you... and entry is free

How to play

Our summer competition started last week and there's one more week to go after today. So don't miss out week's Saturday edition.

A small section of one of the Ordnance Survey 1:50000 Landranger map series of a place in the United Kingdom mentioned in *The Times* in the past 10 days is reproduced here.

All you have to do is identify the place which has been blacked out. Other names nearby have been marked in grey to make the contest more difficult. Fill in

the blacked out name on the dotted line below the map.

Just in case you missed the first map last week, we have reproduced it below. And here's a clue to help you to identify the first place. It has a connexion with *The Times*.

How to enter

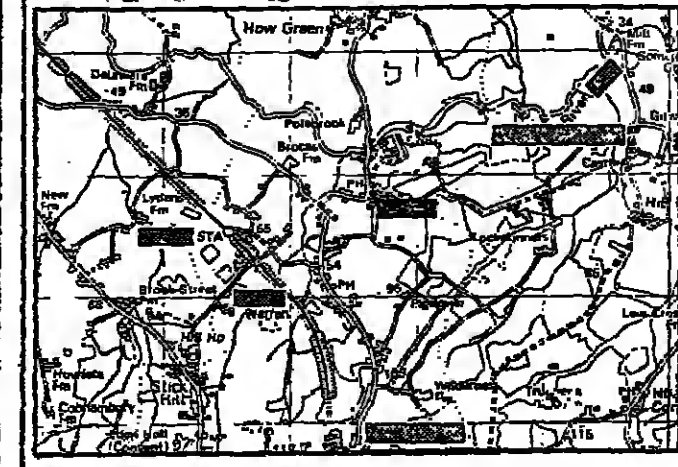
Collect all three maps (August 20, today, September 3) and send them in to the address given as soon as possible after the competition ends. The first correct entry opened will win the first prize.

The prizes

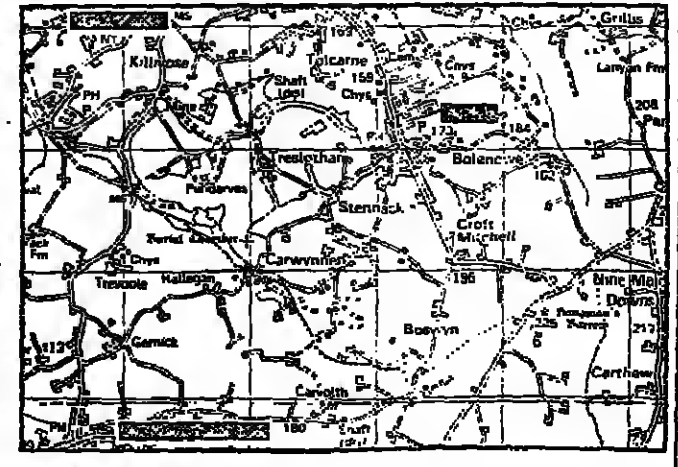
- First prize is a Ford Sierra XR4i with a 2.8 litre V6 engine, a maximum speed of 130 mph and a price of £9,170.
- Twenty runners-up will each receive a copy of the new Ordnance Survey Road Atlas of Great Britain (price £7.95), the comprehensive 1/4 inch to the mile hardback atlas.

The rules

The competition is open to anyone except employees of *The Times* Newspapers Limited and the Ordnance Survey, and their immediate families. The closing date for entries is Monday, September 12. Competitors should enclose a current address and telephone number if possible. The Editor's decision in any dispute resulting from the competition will be final. The result and the solution will be given in *The Times* on Saturday, September 17. Entries should be sent to *The Times* Win-A-Car Competition, 12, Coley Street, London WC39 9YT.



WEEK 1



WEEK 2

VALUES

Ronald Faux describes how good hiking equipment can make travelling light a reality

Taking a weight off the backpackers' shoulders

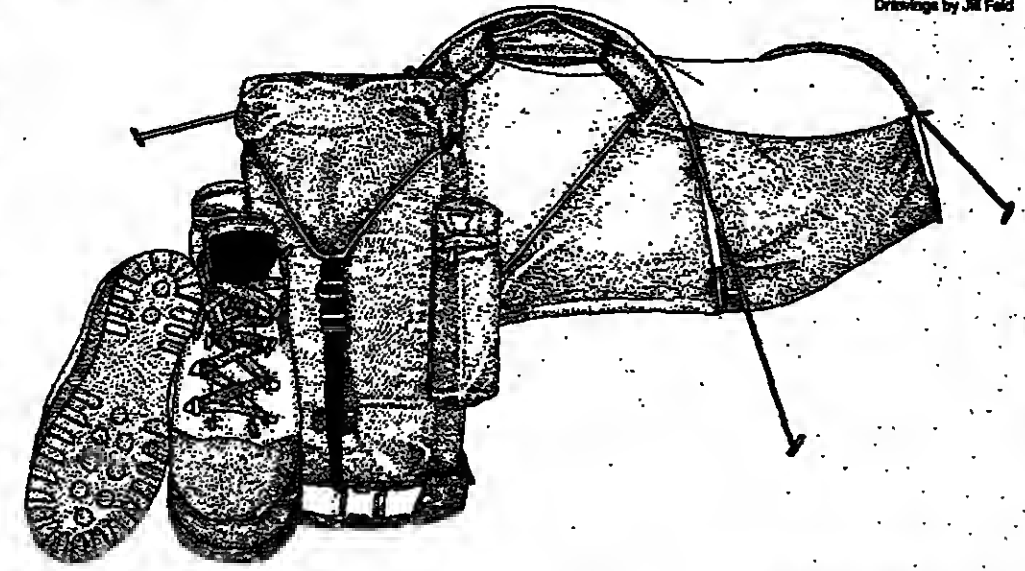
The Italian climber Reinhold Messner, the world's most accomplished solo mountaineer and backpacker, summed up his experience thus: "I move like a snail with my home on my back, moving slowly but always moving". His record is an extreme demonstration of what one man may achieve at an unremitting pace and by travelling light. He has climbed 10 of the world's 8,000 metre peaks (including two ascents of Everest) always with his home on his back but at a speed that would leave the fastest snail well behind. There is a great satisfaction, he believes, in being a modern-day, self-contained nomad exploring a wilderness with his roof, kitchen and ladder all packed neatly into one rucksack.

Himalayas living in ultra-light style, but there are less spectacular ways of enjoying long-distance rambling and being self-sufficient in wild countryside. Modern materials, ingenious designs and a demanding market have removed much of the early pain from backpacking. You can go to ground or take to the hedgerows in civilized comfort these days. There is no need to suffer the misery of the poorest tent, clothing that soaks up the wet, cooking stoves and heavy foods, boots that are heavy enough to pin down a diver and rucksacks supported on a frame that might have been an instrument of torture.

Richard and Adrian Crane, brothers from Keswick, recently ran the full length of the outdoor equipment so that a walker need waste no energy carrying unnecessary weight. I have never refined weight-watching to the extent of one trekker who sewed all his cutlery in half to save an extra ounce. But such careful thought does save energy.

I tried it, my ex-Army framed rucksack weighed more than 45lb, and the attempt ended in drenched misery on the moors above Halifax. The next try, after some severe pruning and careful investment, reduced my load to 25lb of self-sufficiency that Messner himself might have admired, and the fine views were not obscured by blinding rivulets of sweat.

There are many other cross-country walks in the British countryside, and probably the best collection is described in two books edited by Ken Wilson and Richard Gilbert, called *Classic Walks* and *The Big Walks*, both published by Dillons at £17.95 and £16.95 respectively. The range of equipment available is vast and the claims made alluring. My selection below is based on practical experience of walking in the remote parts of England and Scotland, often far away from organized campsites and human contact.



Drawings by Jill Field

Pod protection

My choice of tent is the Peapod by Ultimate (illustrated here), a rugged, double-skinned, tunnel tent that so far has proved impervious to heavy weather. Fibreglass rods hold the tent in shape and bend to the heavy winds. It packs into a small bag, weighs 3½lbs and sleeps one comfortably, two at a crush. The flysheet entrance extends into a generously sized cooking/wet storage area. The Peapod costs a little less than £100 from Ultimate Equipment, Ryburn Mill, Hanson Lane, Halifax, West Yorkshire (0422 42011). There are lighter tents, including the Phoxhole, an aptly named shelter for the lone walker, made by Phoenix Tents. This small tent is a neat tube in Goretex, the revolutionary material that keeps out water but inhibits condensation by "breathing". The Phoxhole weighs 2lb 10oz and costs £120. Also good value is the Three-roamer at £140.

Go shell

In the changeable British weather there is a great advantage in using what designers now call "shell" clothing - a lightweight, waterproof, outer layer with warmer clothing underneath. I have had excellent service from the Brasher hill suit, made in Goretex by Berghaus. It has a wind and weather-proof jacket and trousers that are light and comfortable to wear, with sensibly sized hood and pockets. Every seam is taped for extra protection. It costs £99.95 from Berghaus, 34 Dean Street, Newcastle on Tyne, Tyne and Wear (0632 323561). For cold conditions, fibre-pile clothing is loose, comfortable and absorbs any moisture.

Feathered friends

Where weight and compactness are important, I have found traditional down-filled sleeping bags superior, although a plastic bin liner to keep the material dry is a wise precaution. Technology has moved on a pace since the days when a night spot in a feather-filled sleeping bag left all the traces of a duckpond brawl the following

Light on your feet

There has been a quiet revolution in footwear for mountain walkers. The KSB3 by Karrimor introduced a new concept of lightweight footwear into the British market, with a studded sole resembling a football boot that gives a fine grip on rough terrain. Available from outdoor specialists at £46.40, or from Karrimor International, Avenue Parade, Accrington, Lancashire (0254 385911). The Brasher boots (illustrated here) at £39.95 are similar in concept with cushioning and waterproof protection that works. They are stoutly made by K Shoes but weigh only 16oz a sharp difference from the traditional, unbending mountain boot. Available from Fleetfoot, 26 St Georges Quay, Lancaster, Lancashire (0524 33317).

Carry in comfort

My Ultimate Phazor Pilgrim rucksack (illustrated here) contains all my kit comfortably for a cost of £29.95, although the competition from Berghaus and Karrimor is strong. I easily prefer the frameless, shaped rucksack of the Pilgrim type as being most comfortable and easy to carry, distributing the load onto the pelvis.

Steady eating

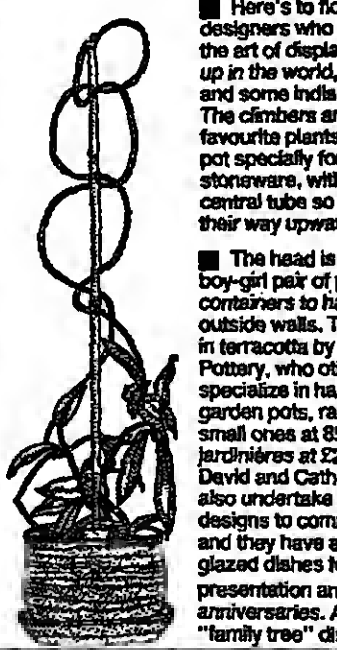
A huge selection of stoves is available, but gas cylinders are cleanest and most compact. The smallest is Survival Aid's Fire King, which costs £1.99, lasts 90 minutes in calm conditions and is non-toxic. Available from Survival Aids, Morland, Pen-

rich, Cumbria (0931 4307). The Peak 1 is a petrol stove that is safe and substantial and costs £27.75. The Gaz Globetrotter has the advantage of being extremely stable and lightweight; it comes enclosed in its own cooking pots and a methanol stove complete with cooking pans, kettle, frying pan and cutlery.

Way ahead

Silva compasses, available at most outdoor specialists, are well designed and finished and have stood the test of orienteering and mountaineering expeditions for years. It is best to buy a liquid-filled compass, but if ever I have become lost using one, it has never been the compass's fault.

- Action packed: Knitted hat, £4.95; Thermofleece jacket, £29.95; Karrimor Jaguar 2 rucksack, £49.95; Gaz Globetrotter cooking stove, £15.95; Silva compass, £10.95; OS map, £2.50; Four Seasons sleeping mat, £18.75; Peapod tent, £99.95; Karrimor Falvea Extreme sleeping bag, £85.50; Zamberlan Trek-Lite boots, £39.50; woolies socks, £4.75. Available from branches of Pindisports, London



Here's to flower power, and to three designers who have turned their talents to the art of displaying plants - some going up in the world, some distinctly headstrong and some indubitably woolly minded. The designers are Sidney Hardwick's favourite plants, and she has designed a pot specially for them. It is hand-made in stoneware, with a statue mounted on a central tube so that trailing plants can wind their way upwards.

SHOPFRONT

Show here with a boya (left), it is equally effective with tradescantia, ivy or rhododendron, and the pot can be made in earthy colours, blue or red. It costs £15, unglazed, and must be collected (no mail order) from Sidney Hardwick's pottery at Cedarwood, Stream Road, Upton near Diddot, Oxfordshire (0295 852283).



The range, called Woolly Bloomers, includes alpines, lilies, delphiniums and tulips and a variety of cacti. Bowls of delphiniums are apparently the most popular line, but the cacti are the most amusing - after all, some species do actually look as if they are covered in wool. These are definitely joy-givers for jolly people; not for the literally minded. Those illustrated here include a single cactus with a fluffy top at £3.95, three purple crocuses at £8.50 and a bowl of mother-in-law's tongue at £28.50. They are available by mail from Woolly Bloomers, 34 Marquis Close, Wexley, Middlesex (tel. 0181 871 2000) for postage and packing. You can also find them at the Jubilee Market in Covent Garden, London WC2, on Saturdays and Sundays.

IN THE GARDEN

Birth pains of a labour of love

This week we begin The Times Garden Project. The idea behind it is to take an undeveloped garden in an inner-city area and build it up into an attractive practical one. We have chosen a modest-sized garden in Fulham, West London. The owners moved in three months ago and after concentrating initially on the interior decoration, they now want to get to work outside. The budget is £500, or roughly £10 a week, and how many hours they

put in will depend on them. The monthly columns will follow their progress and we hope they will be of benefit to established gardeners anxious to improve their own gardens, as well as to beginners.

note of thoughts as they occur to you. You are going to need all the factors at your disposal so that detailed planning, once it starts, is well directed. Putting ideas on paper in some semblance of order is the first step towards crystallizing your thoughts and drawing up a finished plan. Even so, the finished plan must only be a guide and flexible enough to allow changes if something does not look right on the ground.

The Times garden is an oblong with a close-board fence on three sides and the house and patio on the fourth. It faces almost due south which means it will have good light or sun for most of the day. The terrace of houses which runs roughly east to west will protect the garden from the cold east and north winds and this means some tender plants can be considered.

Spadework Now that you have exercised your brain, it is time to put your hands to work: levelling the ground and tackling the weeds. Weeds abound and the few deep-rooted ones must be coped with now. Bindweed, for instance, must be eradicated before planting because if it gets into the roots of established plants it is almost impossible to get rid of. Closer to the house is what I consider to be the worst weed in the garden, *Oxalis corniculata*. It resembles clover, but the resemblance ends there. It grows from a single carrot-like root, and around this are numerous bulbils. Each of these bulbils once separated from the parent will make a new plant. Weeds have flowered and set seed so there is little we can do now to keep them from the soil. The first job is to level roughly the soil ready for



The Times garden: Levelling ground and tackling weeds is first

cultivation. If the levelling is minor it can be done by moving soil about to where it is needed. But if levelling is major, it is important to scrape off the top soil and move sub soil to areas where it is needed before replacing the top soil. Unless the soil is good for two or more spits down, it would be unacceptable to mix together the top soil and the sub soil.

Tools for the job Now that work is starting, it is essential to have the right tools for the job. A good spade and a good fork are invaluable. No matter how good tools are, it is possible to break them, so always handle them with respect. Shop around and choose a tool with a handle that is smooth and strong. Constantly running hands up and down a handle which is not smooth will quickly cause

Prepared hyacinths

There are a number of specialist growers who have perfected the system of treating hyacinth bulbs so that they will flower early. Buy bulbs from a reputable grower, shop or garden centre now. If planted over the next few weeks they should flower before or at Christmas. By planting in succession over the next few weeks, you can have bowls in flower through the winter. Select a bowl big enough to take from three to five bulbs and deep enough to cover them. It is permissible to have the point showing above the compost. Plant the bulbs on a small quantity of compost placed in the bottom of the bowl. Plant as many as you are able to fit in the bowl; it is all right for them to be touching. Fill in round the bulbs, then water thoroughly to wash the compost round the bulbs and to make sure the bowl has a good reservoir of water before it is stored away to get ready for flowering.

For the next eight weeks at least, the bowls must be stored in the dark and in cool to cold conditions. Before forcing can take place, the bulbs must have a well-developed root system. The bowls can be plunged outside, dig them into peat or bark beds so that they are covered by at least 4in of compost. They can be placed in a garage or a shed, or even in a cool cupboard where they can develop a strong root system. Check regularly over the next eight weeks and more to make sure the pots do not dry out. Those outside will need less such attention than bulbs stored in a cupboard indoors. After a minimum of eight weeks, they can be brought out into light.

Hibiscus

Shrubs which flower late summer early autumn are at a premium. Although there is often colour in the garden, few shrubs flower at this time. One which does is *Hibiscus syriacus*, closely related to the hibiscus one sees in profusion in Spain or the Canary Isles. This species is hardy, and because of its late flowering characteristic, it does need protection in the north and east. The shrub would survive, but its flowers can be burned by cold winds and frosts. *Hibiscus syriacus* needs a well-drained site, preferably in full sun. *Hibiscus* will grow on almost any soil, but will do much better if the conditions are good. Needs little or no pruning and branches which grow out of shape can be removed with a pair of secateurs. Should a plant grow too big for its position, it can be cut back in the spring. It will tolerate hard pruning so long as the sap is rising. Cutting at the wrong time of year does not necessarily mean the plant will die, but there is a risk. There are a great many varieties of *H. syriacus*, covering a wide range of colour. They are sometimes called the Tree Hollyhock.

H. s. Woodbridge is a fine example with its large pink flowers and a carmine blotch towards the centre of the petals. *H. s. William R Smith* has large white flowers and petals with a somewhat crinkled appearance. *H. s. Hamabo* is a pale pink, which fades a little more as the sun strikes; each petal has a crimson blotch at the base. You may have to shop around for plants, they are available at Notcutts and Hilliers Nurseries. Small plants will cost about £3 each.

ALPINA... 64 pages, colourfully illustrated with expert photographs. It's absolutely free from Pen Felt. So grab this free offer while it lasts. Packed with every possible variety, including many new, make this book ideal for the specialist or simply people who love to grow beautiful flowers. Write to Pen Felt, Department 2822, Waller Street, Stone, Cheshire, Macclesfield, Lancashire, Warrington, Walsley, Herts.

AGRIFRAMES FRUIT CAGES... Now that the garden has been placed squarely in its environment, it is time to carry a piece of paper with you and make a Paperwork. Send for FREE brochure and net samples. Agriframes Ltd, Brochure No. 10, High Street, East Grinstead, Sussex BN19 7HG. Name: Address: Ring 0342 28644(24 hours)

DRINK Sweet days around the Danube

One of the most bizarre vineyard visits I have ever made took place in Burgenland five years ago, where a taste of the region's best wine proved very choice. Austrian wines were not particularly well known in England at the time. My plan was to end a week's wandering along the Danube, taking in the country's main wine-producing regions, with the grand finale of a trip to the Burgenland, whose luscious honeyed wines were once as revered as Hungary's great Tokay-Eszencia. It was a good two-hour drive from Vienna, but at last the misty vineyards of the Burgenland came in sight. They surrounded a vast reed-lined lake, right on the border with Hungary, known as the Neusiedlersee. The Burgenland's moist micro-climate is perfect for "noble rot" and virtually every wine village in the region makes rich, sweet wines. So I was amazed, after visiting the attractive border village of Mörbisch and the neighbouring town of Rust, to be taken to a co-operative whose sole production was some dreary lines of dry white and red wines. By this time it was getting dark, and I had run out of patience with my Austrian guide. There was no alternative but to hope for the best and call it unimmaculate at the nearest cellar, which happened to be the Esterhazy castle Eisenstadt, where Haydn was once the court musician. Luckily the cellarmen had gone home. After admiring the magnificent fourteenth-century cellars and what little I could see of the vineyards, I asked if I might taste a few wines. Impossible, was the reply, the barrels could not be disturbed, the bottle cellar had been locked up for the night, and in any case the Duke of Esterhazy had not given his permission. But surely, as cellarmen, he might have a few bottles? No, he and the rest of the cellar staff were nocturnal. By now we had arrived at the bottling line, and there at the end were the dregs of two of the Duke's award-winning Trockenbeerenauslesen. A pint beer mug was produced, and at long last I had my first taste of a great, sweet Burgenland wine.



Thankfully, Austria's finest sweet wines are easier to get hold of today. This is partly because the English wine trade finds them such good value for money, especially when compared to German Trockenbeerenauslesen and Trockenbeerenauslesen. Equally modestly priced over here are the country's dry white wines, but the red wines, produced in Austria in smaller proportions, are more difficult to find. In terms of taste, Austrian wines seem to me to be a halfway house between the wines of two of its middle-European neighbours Germany and Hungary. Perhaps the most decidedly Austrian flavour comes from the Grüner Veltliner grape - a unique Austrian variety that accounts for most of all the white wines produced. Unfortunately Austria's Heurige, or new wines, can only be drunk on the spot, but there are some good, value-for-money Austrian wines available. Gräts of St James's Falkensteiner (Victoria Wine £2.49, ASDA £2.49) is a fruity, grapey wine made partly from the Grüner Veltliner grape. Another good Grüner Veltliner is Klosterdrum, a fruity deep purple wine, is the red twin of Klosterdrum, also made by Klosterdrum although made from a different grape. Like all Austrian - and some other middle-European reds, it has a slightly bitter tannic finish (Thursbers £2.59). But the wines from the Burgenland are still the finest of the country. Ritz Moser is Austria's most famous wine firm, and deservedly so. It was the late Ritz Moser who, among other achievements, pioneered the economical and labour-intensive high-cultivation method. Victoria Wine has always carried a couple of his sweet Burgenland wines, so try Moser's rich, peachy Ruster Beerenauslese 1981, practically a give-away at £5.19 a bottle. Almost twice the price and not necessarily twice the flavour, but considerably cheaper than the German equivalent, is Moser's rich, smoky golden 1976 Donnerskircher Welschriesling Trockenbeerenauslese (Victoria Wine £9.50). But please note that this wine and the 1981 Ruster may well have to be ordered in advance from your local branch and expect delay of a week to 10 days.

Jane MacQuitty

REVIEW Classical records of the month

Ravishing with refinement

Bizet: Carmen Baltsa/Ricciarelli/Carreras/van Dam; Berlin Philharmonic/Karajan (Deutsche Grammophon 2741 025, Compact Disc 411 088-2 GH 3, both three records)

Last autumn when Herbert von Karajan was in Berlin making his recording of Carmen...

The Berlin Philharmonic is allowed to bring on frenzy to the score. Indeed, in the first act it is almost possible to hear the instruments shimmering in the heat of the sun.

The danger in this Spain, lazy in the sun, is provided by Carmen herself in the shape of Agnes Baltsa...

Baltsa's Carmen is full of provocation. She sings the Habanera in extraordinarily long-sung phrases...

Jose Carreras offers a gentle and romantic José, very much in keeping with Karajan's reading...

Highly personal taste, and I find Kocsis intelligent and fresh. Claudio Arrau includes some Chopin on his new recital record...



Fresh roles: Agnes Baltsa and José Carreras in Karajan's 'sweet-smelling' Carmen

and robust while Carreras is more cautious, with some quite exceptional head notes for the penultimate phrase...

Domingo's José is rooted very much in the famous Edinburgh Festival production, with its references to Mérimée's dust-covered soldier...

Perhaps some waltzes, including the famous Grand Valse Brillante in E flat, do go too far - the A Flat, Op 64 No 3, with its syncopated main beats...

Kocsis' piano is noticeably less successful, as if the lecture had put the pianist in a rather bad mood...

I should add a mention of his sturdy directness and nobility which many people admire. But highly personal taste, and I find Kocsis intelligent and fresh.

French is rarely comprehensible. José van Dam, however, is an outstandingly good Escamillo...

Some of the smaller roles are indifferently taken and the perennial problem of the spoken dialogue has not been solved. The French actors rarely sound like their singing counterparts...

Emotional ambiguity has more often been found in Schubert by Alfred Brendel. But on his new single-disc release he tackles two early sonatas, in A Minor (D537) and A Major (D664)...

In recent close encounters with a compact disc player some of the best and worst sounds came from Decca recordings. Haitink's version of Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony was revealed as a stodgy, unclear piece of engineering...

In the past, the piano is struck with a noticeable lack of clarity in important sections. I should add a mention of his sturdy directness and nobility which many people admire.

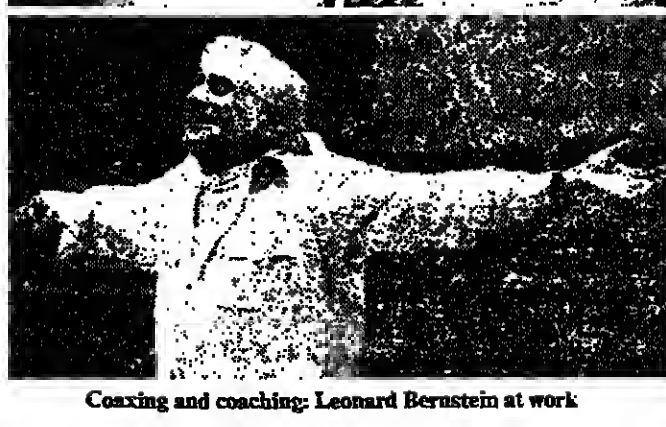
Ricciarelli and Baltsa. But these are the minor blemishes on a Carmen which is musically ravishing.

But these are the minor blemishes on a Carmen which is musically ravishing. It needs only a few moments with Karajan's 20-year-old RCA issue to hear how much he has changed in his approach to Bizet.

Our time, Jean Barraqué once remarked, is one that imposes greatness on its artists, and it is good to have the opportunity to welcome back a record that shows how thoroughly he understood and responded to that challenge.

But Barraqué died 10 years ago this month, and if there is any composer around today capable of going in search of greatness it is Stockhausen.

The release of a complete recording of this opera, however, makes me wonder whether that is so very important. What definitely does matter is that Stockhausen should believe all this mumbo-jumbo...



Coaxing and coaching: Leonard Bernstein at work

It is possible, nonetheless, that more information about the stage proceedings would help. The set comes with sketchy notes of the sort that no serious record company would think adequate for a standard opera.

Meanwhile one may be grateful that some composers have attached themselves to the truths of larger curiosity. Messiaen's Méditations sur le mystère de la Sainte Trinité is the latest and longest of his organ cycles...

The Japanese print since 1900. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (636 1555). Until Sept 11, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm.

Hollow centre to the Bernstein Brahms

Bernstein has reached Brahms just in time for his 15th anniversary, and the new gilded box set looks very tempting.

The Vienna Philharmonic play well, though not as well as under Kertész, the five recording quality and balance is not all it could be...

The First and Fourth Symphonies, which, I guess, mean most to Bernstein, also suffer the most. In both opening movements sforzandi and ritardandi are superimposed to substitute for organic thematic and dynamic growth...

The two Mozart Concertos (the G and A Major) are the prizes of the box. The unforced simplicity of the outer movements restores a fresh transcendence after so much high gloss...

Collectors of Russian exotica may also be interested in a new Abbey Road mastering of a 1981 Soviet recording of the comparatively rare 1894 Caucasian Sketches of Ippolitov-Ivanov...

Meanwhile one may be grateful that some composers have attached themselves to the truths of larger curiosity. Messiaen's Méditations sur le mystère de la Sainte Trinité is the latest and longest of his organ cycles...

Brahms: Four Symphonies. Bernstein/Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (Deutsche Grammophon 2714 025, four records).

Rimsky-Korsakov: Scheherazade. Ritschky/Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra (EMI ASD 4188).

Messiaen: Méditations sur le mystère de la Sainte Trinité. Ulfarson/Kanchara DKP 9024-5 (two records).

Stockhausen: Licht. Stockhausen/Deutsche Grammophon 2740 272 (four records).

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A challenge met with passion

The good news here is Zoltan Kocsis' penetratingly brilliant recording of the complete Chopin waltzes.

Perhaps some waltzes, including the famous Grand Valse Brillante in E flat, do go too far - the A Flat, Op 64 No 3, with its syncopated main beats...

I should add a mention of his sturdy directness and nobility which many people admire. But highly personal taste, and I find Kocsis intelligent and fresh.

Chopin: The 19 Waltzes Kocsis (Philips 6514 280). Liszt: Après une Lecture de Dante; Funérailles; Six Chants Polonais (after Chopin) Arrau (Philips 6514 273).

Schubert: Piano Sonatas in A, D 958 Arrau (Philips 6514 368). Schubert: Piano Sonatas in A Minor (D537) and A Major (D664) which are less promising.

In recent close encounters with a compact disc player some of the best and worst sounds came from Decca recordings. Haitink's version of Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony was revealed as a stodgy, unclear piece of engineering...

Our time, Jean Barraqué once remarked, is one that imposes greatness on its artists, and it is good to have the opportunity to welcome back a record that shows how thoroughly he understood and responded to that challenge.

But Barraqué died 10 years ago this month, and if there is any composer around today capable of going in search of greatness it is Stockhausen.

The release of a complete recording of this opera, however, makes me wonder whether that is so very important. What definitely does matter is that Stockhausen should believe all this mumbo-jumbo...

Lively Chopin, funeral Liszt

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Refugees on Sunset Boulevard

A play whose characters include Tarzan and the Marx Brothers alongside Bertold Brecht and Thomas Mann is bound to have a certain zany quality about it...

Although the former group make only short appearances, they help to set the scene in Tales from Hollywood, which receives its British premiere at the National Theatre next week.

It is the story of a colony of German and Austrian writers who, as emigrants and refugees from Fascism, found themselves in Hollywood during the last war.

Although the former group make only short appearances, they help to set the scene in Tales from Hollywood, which receives its British premiere at the National Theatre next week.



Getting it all taped: Michael Gambon and Ian MacDiarmid rehearse Tales from Hollywood

the local critics, who reacted with some sensitivity to its picture of Hollywood. Hampton, who had himself been writing for the cinema for a while...

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Out of Town

BIRMINGHAM: Alexandra (021 643 1281). French Without Tears by Terence Rattigan. Mon-Sept 3, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.15pm; matinee Wed at 2.30pm.

DUBLIN: Abbey Theatre (001 744505). The Moon in the Yellow River by Denis Johnston. Until Sept 10, Mon-Sat at 8pm.

HORNCHURCH: Queen's (040 24 4333). Black Comedy by Peter Shaffer and The School for Wives by Molière. Wed-Sept 17, Tues-Sat at 8pm; matinee Sat at 2pm.

LEICESTER: Haymarket (0533 889797). Having a Ball by Alan Bennett. Until Sept 17, Mon-Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm; matinee Sat at 4pm.

SALISBURY: Playhouse (072 2253). The Woodlanders by Thomas Hardy, adapted by David Horlock. Until Sept 17, Mon-Wed and Fri at 7.15pm (not Aug 29); Thurs at 8pm; Sat at 8pm and 8.15pm; matinee Thurs at 2.30pm.

STRAFFORD: Royal Shakespeare (0789 256623). Henry VIII. Thurs at 7.30pm.

STRAFFORD: Other Places (0789 256623). The Dillan, adapted by Ron Hutchinson from the book by Angela Hewitts. Today, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA: Palace (0702 42564). Not Now Darling by Caryl Chesson. Wed-Sept 24, Mon-Thurs and Sat at 8pm, Fri at 8.15pm; matinee Sept 14 at 2.30pm.

PREVIEW Galleries

THE JAPANESE PRINT SINCE 1900. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (636 1555). Until Sept 11, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm.

THE SCULPTURE SHOW. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (826 3144). Until Oct 9, Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm, Fri and Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm.

MANET AT WORK. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (638 3321). Until Oct 8, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY. The Photographers' Gallery, 5 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (249 1989) Sept 3-Oct 8, Tues-Sat 11am-7pm.

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Critics' choice

ARDEN OF FAVERSHAM The Pit (828 8795). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm; matinee Thurs at 2pm.

THE FAWN Cotswolds (828 2252). Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm, in repertory with The Beggar's Opera Wed at 7.30pm and T-30pm; Mon-Wed at 7.30pm.

HAPPY FAMILY Duke of York's (836 5122). Mon-Thurs at 8pm, Fri and Sat at 8.45pm and 8.30pm.

A PATRIOT FOR ME Newcastle (830 8932) Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Sat at 2.30pm.

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU Lyttelton (828 2252). Today and Sat at 7.45pm; Mon, Thurs and Fri at 7.45pm.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA: Palace (0702 42564). Not Now Darling by Caryl Chesson. Wed-Sept 24, Mon-Thurs and Sat at 8pm, Fri at 8.15pm; matinee Sept 14 at 2.30pm.

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PREVIEW Music

Concerts

FOWKE PROMS Tonight, 7.30pm, Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (S99 9212) In the first of three notable pianistic Proms this week Philip Fowke plays Richard Strauss's Burleske and Weber's Konzertstück. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Norman Del Mar then performs Hindemith's entertaining Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Weber.

BRAHMS-SCHOENBERG Tonight, 7.30pm, Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (022 3191, credit cards 022 6544) Schoenberg's illuminating orchestration of Brahms's G minor Piano Quartet is played by the London Sinfonietta conducted by Simon Rattle. They also offer Haydn's Symphony No 67, and Alfred Brendel solos in Mozart's last piano concerto, K 595.

THE PROUD ARE RISEN Tonight, 8pm, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford Some singers called The Sixteen give forth with Tomkins's Oh, God, the Proud are Risen, Schütz's Musikalische Exequien, Byrd's Laudibus in Sanctis and Ad Dominum cum Tribulatione.

DECEPTION PASS Tomorrow, 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank London SE1 (022 3191, credit cards 022 6544) The Philip Jones Brass Ensemble play Paul Patterson's Deception Pass's 1981 piece, Praetorius's Terpsichorean Suite, a Handel Concerto and Saint-Saëns's Carnival of the Animals.

MORE BRAHMS Tomorrow, 8pm, Usher Hall, Edinburgh (031 225 8788) Finlay's Zukerman and Marc Neljubov are heard in an exciting programme of Brahms sonatas: the Violin Sonatas Op 100 and 108, and the viola version of Op. 120 No 2.

LAST SOUTH BANK Tomorrow, 7pm, Festival Hall In the last concert of the generally disappointing South Bank Summer Music series Simon Rattle directs the City of Birmingham Orchestra in Sibelius's Symphonies Nos 5, 6 and 7. Earlier, at 5.30pm in the Waterloo Room, Robert Simpson gives a talk on these works.

Groves Conducting Haydn

KU EBBINGE Tomorrow, 8pm, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford Ku Ebbinge plays the oboe d'amore in stirring Telemann Oboe d'Amore Concerto, and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra under Ton Koopman follows with the same composer's Tafelmusik. Earlier J. S. Bach's Suite No 1 and Brandenburg Concerto No 4 are heard.

AX, KIM, MA Mon, 11am, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (03-225 5756) Emanuel Ax, Young Uck Kim and Yo Yo Ma results for Mozart's Trio K 564, Brahms's Trio Op 8 (the revised version, presumably) and Dvořák's Trio Op 85, all for piano, violin and cello.

BRENDEL BEETHOVEN Mon, 7pm, Albert Hall Brendel again, this time in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4. Earlier Sir Charles Groves conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Haydn's "Bear" Symphony (No 82).

MOZART AND MAHLER Mon 8pm, Usher Hall, Edinburgh The London Philharmonic Orchestra, under Klaus Tennstedt, plays Mozart's Concerto K 218 (Miriam Fried, violin) and Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde (with Brigitte Fassbänder, mezzo soprano, and Hermann Winkel, tenor).

MUSSORGSKY'S MOUNTAIN Fri, 7.30pm, Albert Hall After Mussorgsky's Night on the Bare Mountain, György Paucok solos in Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No 1 and Claude Mathieu is the narrator in Saravali's rarely performed Parsifal. David Adlington conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Singers.

MARE NOSTRUM Fri, 8pm, Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1 (030 3647) Mauricio Kagel's Mare Nostrum, first heard in Berlin in 1976, at last achieves its British premiere, thanks to the Musica series. The performance will be in English, but the production is based on that seen at the Honover Opera in 1981.

LUTOSLAWSKI'S LVRE 7.30pm, Albert Hall Shura Cherkassky solos in Chopin's Concerto No 2 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Richard Hickox, who also has charge of Stravinsky's Firebird Suite. Earlier Wrold

reformed to showcase Alvin Lee's Woodstock-style pyrotechnics; Steve Harley will be leading a new Cockney Rebel; and the End presents light relief. Knockabout fun for all ages.

R&B JAMBOREE Tomorrow, Electric Ballroom, Camden High Street, London NW1 A very promising night indeed, put together by Rock On Records and featuring four American r&b mini-legends of the early 1950s. Two are tenor saxophonists: Big Jay McNeely and Chuck Higgins. Two are pianists and singers: Young Jessie and Willie Egans.

PERWITH '83 (Tune, Penwith, near St Ives, Cornwall) Despite the absence of surf music (which, given the location, one would have imagined to be a sine qua non), this shapes up as one of the outdoor events of the summer. Meatloaf tops the bill with his fascinating reduction of Springsteen, Spector and the Shangri-Les. 100s follow up, with a lot to crow; Chuck Berry will roll through an unsurpassable repertoire with his customary sardonic wit; and Aswad, the London

Howlett as the ambiguous Caribbean folk hero who started the historic slave uprising.

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA VNO start their Cardiff season on Fri with a new production by John Copley of Peter Grimes, with Richard Armstrong conducting a cast which includes John Mitchinson in the title role and Josephine Barstow as Ellen Orford. The company is operating a new subscription package for Wales and for Birmingham and Bristol: write for details of money-saving offers to Welsh National Opera, John Street, Cardiff (0222 40641).

KOREAN NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY Queen Elizabeth Hall (022 3191). Mon to Sept 3 at 7.45pm; matinee Sat at 3pm Previous visits by dance companies from Korea have been colourful and spectacular, and this one, here under official South Korean auspices, should be no exception.

EDINBURGH FRINGE Information about a new dance centre, Belford Church Theatre, Douglas Gardens (081 225 9961), arrived too late for inclusion in last week's Edinburgh preview. Its programmes include a solo programme by Michla Bergese (tonight at 9.30pm), and a new work by Shelley Lee for Basic Space Dance Theatre until Sept 3, Mon-Sat at 7.15pm.

Film: David Robinson and Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Dance: John Percival; Rock and Jazz: Richard Williams; Opera: Hilary Finch

PREVIEW Films

Big shots to reclaim the Twilight Zone

Agony science-fiction franks. Late-night television addicts, and devotees everywhere of the American bizarre will be pleased to discover that they are not alone in their predilections. Some of cinema's brightest young things, led by Steve Spielberg and John Landis, have aired their love of one of the best known early television sci-fi series, The Twilight Zone. The Zone's original creator, Rod Serling, the creation of Rod Serling the playwright, was first delivered to a puzzled world in 1959 on CBS, attracting abysmal ratings for its weekly twist-in-the-tale hour.



Enough to make you peck: Jeremy Licht and Kathleen Quinlan

By today's standards it was pretty weak stuff but the programme was seminal. Spielberg watched it and ended up making Close Encounters and E.T. Landis watched it and turned out An American Werewolf in London. Between the two of

them they have probably made more money than the total budget for five years of the television series - and certainly more than Serling (who died in 1975) ever received. But one of the privileges of being rich is that it enables you to indulge your fantasies.

Critics' choice

DIAL M FOR MURDER (PG) ICA Cinema, The Mall (030 3647) until Sept 7 (closed Mon) Seen without the original 3D effects, Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 film of Frederick Knott's coolly conventional thriller is a jumpy piece of cinema. The 3D version (never before released in Britain) transforms the film into an absorbing, audacious game with objects, people and space. Ray Milland plays the tennis pro with murder on his mind towards his wife (Grace Kelly). Also featured: a pair of scissors, various lathings and, of course, a telephone.

FANNY AND ALEXANDER (HS) Coronet Notting Hill (727 6705) from Thurs Ingmar Bergman's amazing evocation of life, joys and terrors, staged with exceptional poise, beauty and lightness of touch. Traditional Bergman themes are deftly woven into the mixed fortunes of a Swedish family living early in the century.

MERRY CHRISTMAS MR LAWRENCE (HS) ABC Baywater (228 4148) ABC Fulham Road (370 2636) ABC Baywater Avenue (836 8861) Camden Plaza (485 2443) Classic Haymarket (839 1527) Oshima's cool, penetrating version of Sir Laurens van der Post novel's The Sand and the Sower, with David Bowie and Tom Conti as POWs in Java. Bowie's bizarre presence and Oshima's quizzical response to British and Japanese culture combine to create a weird cinematic limbo, where the real action lies inside the characters. With Takeshi and Ryūichi Sakamoto, who is also composer

of the seductive music. A season of Oshima's films runs at the National Film Theatre, Thurs to Sept 21.

OCTOPUSSY (HS) Classic Chelsea (352 5096) Empire Leicester Square (437 1234) Odeon Kensington (022 6644) Odeon Middle Arch (723 2011/2) The Bond films have proved their point by selling a billion tickets. Although it is hard nowadays to stay ahead of real-life technology Bond's flying jets, fountain-pen lasers, and other toys are still the products of strip-cartoon magic. In the latest episode the essence remains the same, as does the casting of Bond (a now more cautiously dashing Roger Moore), Miss Moneybags (Lois Maxwell) and old Q (Desmond Llewellyn). John Glen Directs.

ONE FROM THE HEART (HS) Lumiere, St Martin's Lane (836 0891) until Wed Francis Coppola's studio-bound musical fantasy offers scanty human feelings and abundant technological fireworks. Lovers and drifters shift positions one holiday weekend in Las Vegas; the music is unimproved, but the eye is beguiled.

THE OUTSIDERS (PG) ABC Baywater (228 4148) ABC Fulham Road (370 2636) ABC Baywater Avenue (836 8861) Camden Plaza (485 2443) Classic Haymarket (839 1527) S. E. Hinton's American classic is filmed by Francis Coppola with an outrageous, exhilarating, romantic bloom. Orange skies glow, cameras adopt cockeyed angles, Robert Frost is lovingly quoted, and Carmine Coppola's score surrounds the action with a radiant musical halo. The streamlined visuals share the technology of One from the Heart; the emotional

Films on TV

Negatively speaking, Gaslight does not exist. It has nothing to do with semantics to say that the supreme star, to be screened on Channel 4 tomorrow (2.30-4pm), is possibly the film world's most notable example of two negatives making a positive. Thorold Dickinson's 1939 movie, based on the Patrick Hamilton stage play, was at one time given over to the BBC. The shocking news that came out of Hollywood in 1944 was that MGM had perpetrated an act of vandalism almost without precedent. It had decided to remake Dickinson's Best of British and having acquired the original negative, MGM was reported to have destroyed the negative so that the new version (Gaslight in the US, The Murder in Thornton Square in Britain) would not be around to allow comparisons to be made. Worse, there were rumours that all prints of Dickinson's film had been got rid of, too.

The Murder in Thornton Square, directed by George Cukor, was in some ways (acting, script, décor) superior to Gaslight. In other ways (essential claustrophobia, camerawork) it was inferior. The early 1950s, a minor miracle (major miracle by filmhand standards) occurred. Several prints of Dickinson's Gaslight turned up in America. Another negative was prepared from them and prints were run off, and soon the film was being shown throughout the US under yet another title, Angel Street.

The reviews were, in the main, wildly enthusiastic. Anton Walbrook, as the husband who tries to drive his wife (Diana Wynyard) insane so that he can get his hands on some hidden jewels, was hailed - for the second time round - as a newcomer of staggering promise. A one-sensational claim, because Walbrook had been adding to his laurels throughout the 1940s with films such as The Red Shoes, another Dickinson period film. The Queen of Spades, and The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (to be screened on BBC2 at 1.50pm on Moo).

Peter Davalle Also recommended: American Graffiti (1973): A potent distillation of adolescent high spirits set in a California town during the rock 'n' rolling early 1960s, and such a huge box-office success that it gave its director, George Lucas, much of the cash he needed to make Star Wars six years later (BBC2, tonight, 11pm-12.55am).

Unfaithfully Yours (1948): Preston Sturges's sharp-tongued comedy about an orchestral conductor (Rex Harrison) who suspects he is playing second fiddle to the men he is convinced are after his wife (Linda Darnell) (Channel 4, tonight, 11.05pm-12.55am).

RETURN OF THE JEDI (U) Classic Chelsea (352 5096) Leicester Square Theatre (030 5252) Odeon Kensington (022 6644) Studio Oxford Circus (437 3300) The latest, ultra-sophisticated instalment of George Lucas's Star Wars saga, this third adventure film is the most imaginative and most ambitious attempt to combat the Galactic Emperor. Directed by Richard Marquand, with Harrison Ford.

EDINBURGH FILM FESTIVAL Filmhouse, Lothian Road, Edinburgh (031 228 6382) until Sept 4 Verdi heroines rampaging through lush décor, canoodling insects and dancing rats, family angst on July 4, giant tomatoes - the festival's second week offers something for all tastes. Heroines rampage in Zeffirelli's gorgeous La Traviata (tomorrow, at the Playhouse), insects and rats can be found in three programmes resurrecting the forgotten exemplar of puppet animation, Ladislav Starek's (Mon, Tues), Line Shandler's Summerspell (Tues) features family turmoil. The Big Tomato appears with Big Meat Enter for a late-night orgy on Thurs. Also worth noting: Ann Hul's Boat People (today); Lewis Teague's Cyo (today, at the Odeon); City News - the fictional struggles of an underground newspaper (Mon); and, from the Odeon, retrospective, Boy (Mon) and The Coronary (Tues). Except where noted, films are shown at Filmhouse.

WAR GAMES (PG) Odeon, Leicester Square (352 6111) The artful story of a boy computer-wizard who locates a secret system programmed to play games ranging from chess to global thermonuclear war. Difficult to dislike: the script adroitly marshals current obsessions inside and outside Hollywood, and both cast and director (John Badham) help to hide the occasional structural flaw.

SUPERMAN III (PG) ABC Baywater (228 4148) ABC Fulham Road (370 2636) Studio Oxford Circus (437 3300) Warner West End (439 0791) A supercaricature's egg-bite comedy jostles with tedious set pieces. Worth seeing, though, for director Richard Lester's acumen and the splendid spectacle of a spiteful, drunken Superman.

TOOTSIE (PG) Shenock Holmes Cents (935 2772) Studio Oxford Circus (437 3300) Warner West End (439 0791) Expert comedy about desperate actor Dustin Hoffman finding financial success and emotional turmoil as a female soap opera star. Larry Gelbart and Murray

constant, however, is unique. With Matt Dillon, G. Thomas Howell, Ralph Macchio.

of the seductive music. A season of Oshima's films runs at the National Film Theatre, Thurs to Sept 21.

OCTOPUSSY (HS) Classic Chelsea (352 5096) Empire Leicester Square (437 1234) Odeon Kensington (022 6644) Odeon Middle Arch (723 2011/2) The Bond films have proved their point by selling a billion tickets. Although it is hard nowadays to stay ahead of real-life technology Bond's flying jets, fountain-pen lasers, and other toys are still the products of strip-cartoon magic. In the latest episode the essence remains the same, as does the casting of Bond (a now more cautiously dashing Roger Moore), Miss Moneybags (Lois Maxwell) and old Q (Desmond Llewellyn). John Glen Directs.

ONE FROM THE HEART (HS) Lumiere, St Martin's Lane (836 0891) until Wed Francis Coppola's studio-bound musical fantasy offers scanty human feelings and abundant technological fireworks. Lovers and drifters shift positions one holiday weekend in Las Vegas; the music is unimproved, but the eye is beguiled.

THE OUTSIDERS (PG) ABC Baywater (228 4148) ABC Fulham Road (370 2636) ABC Baywater Avenue (836 8861) Camden Plaza (485 2443) Classic Haymarket (839 1527) S. E. Hinton's American classic is filmed by Francis Coppola with an outrageous, exhilarating, romantic bloom. Orange skies glow, cameras adopt cockeyed angles, Robert Frost is lovingly quoted, and Carmine Coppola's score surrounds the action with a radiant musical halo. The streamlined visuals share the technology of One from the Heart; the emotional

The Times Jumbo Crossword

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first three correct solutions opened on Tuesday, September 6, 1983. Entries should be addressed to The Times Jumbo Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London, WC9 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, September 10, 1983.

- ACROSS 1 What Chaotic did was in a way no use (7) 2 Note the song "Sunny places" (7) 5 Involves giving pal cosmetic treatment (11) 15 Picture the prize won by the Prince of Arragon (3,8,2,1,8,5) 16 Checking the others on the throne, say? (11) 17 Writer enters dull surroundings of a Dickensian lawyer (7) 18 Transmissions to France over this band of frequencies? (7) 19 That of tobacco for the makings of a cigarette in general (7) 21 A bit of gum on a stick, like those in Kasey's (8) 22 See author, a successful one, embrace love (6,4) 24 There it was - that's why one had to tackle it (7) 25 Conversely it's one world power in 200 that's resolving cases of conscience (9) 28 Central area ranking above St James (9) 30 Set aside ruin of red revolution, oot one being lost (9) 31 Offers for consideration - or for money? (9) 32 Sort of verses e.g. Alice gets involved in (7) 33 OK for drinking, the River Board indicates (7) 36 New car tax as Humpty Dumpty's umbrella present (6) 37 Bar course for a singer (7-5) 40 Tendency to be roused by way-out talent (12) 42 Feverishly stirring, the double century I made (6) 43 Rejection of the German studies is depressing (7) 46 Barker's land register (7) 47 Simple vehicle - to make the directors happy (9) 48 Battered so inadequately paid has to starve? (9) 52 By om means living up to being musically dim (3,4) 53 Get back under this cover (9) 55 Modernize in order to raise fruit (7) 56 Amanda and Miranda for instance (10) 58 Places in positions on the line (8) 61 What's found in blood-stream of a moorhen perhaps? (7) 63 Tears into sheep and comes a cropper (5,2) 65 Agitated editor in Baltic port producing old Hindu scripture (3-4) 66 Could it be Sevenoaks in NW S2 (7,4) 68 Man's wrong, naturally, but may receive mercy from the ultimate tribunal (12,3,2,5,2,7,6) 69 How to end the round? A fair way to prove one's strength (4,3,4) 70 Skip, say - one having got away (7) 71 So we think he did it (7)
- DOWN 1 Revile a tool that's ruined an outstanding work of art (4-7) 2 Exaggeration concerning what the bank gives you (13) 3 His musical work's taken up over ho hour (5) 4 Tried revised version - crazy and damaging (7) 5 With government controlling everything its main needs replacement (7) 6 Two or more of them in most cases (9) 7 Says no concerning current safety precautions (7) 8 Sailor on British Rail is this for this (12) 9 Sounds cold? Hence pepper (6) 10 Extra oes added to form accidental crews (4-7) 11 Art-work for £1? Count the change (7) 12 Tea all round in the country (5) 13 Appropriate means of surveying a ménage à trois? (13) 14 Dedic avengers consult Wisden to do so? (6,3,6) 20 Prince has a large number always in support (5) 23 Went back to be ticked off about tree damage (9) 25 Final provision of fish here abroad, and money (7) 26 This is nothing but a line on a map (6) 27 Kept company with Albert and Edward (9) 28 Like the soldiers we will remember, and those in Shangri-la (7) 31 Customs sums payable for items bought out of turn (9) 33 Typewriter should have high typing speeds? (15) 34 But can drink make us so meddlesome? (7,2) 38 Trade restriction makes mob rage (7) 39 Part of church service, by Whistler or happy (9) 41 Steal away like Longfellow's Arabs (6) 41 Homer, before including pig in vulture's diet? (7,6) 44 Such is the force of the current (13) 45 Dublin home for Sygne's playboy (5,7) 47 Physician cap is new style - get one, Bruno (6,5) 49 Making money in other words, less initial loss requires bravery (11) 50 A problem for John Gipsin (5) 51 Making out judgment (11) 52 Tennis-player before match starts - by whom one is 1 or (7-2) 54 Dead end in which I am out of date (7) 56 The jam-making trade (7) 58 Is nurse asor so early? (7) 62 A little finger-twiddler again distressed the student (6) 64 Jack's no great swimmer (5) 67 Pretentiousness, we hear, of the estate's new owners (5)

Name Address

Opera

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Tonight and next Sat, the ENO's revival of Don Giovanni, conducted by Peter Robinson, which Paul Sherriff enjoyed earlier this month. Jonathan Miller's sword-winning mafioso Rigoletto continues its return run, with its original strong cast now conducted by Noel Davies. Coming to a timely revival of David Blake's important dramatic epic, Tossaint: book now for performances on Sept 6,8,14,17 and 23 with Neil

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA VNO start their Cardiff season on Fri with a new production by John Copley of Peter Grimes, with Richard Armstrong conducting a cast which includes John Mitchinson in the title role and Josephine Barstow as Ellen Orford. The company is operating a new subscription package for Wales and for Birmingham and Bristol: write for details of money-saving offers to Welsh National Opera, John Street, Cardiff (0222 40641).

Dance

NEW YORK CITY BALLET Tonight and next Sat, the NYCB's new production of The Nutcracker, conducted by Peter Robinson, which Paul Sherriff enjoyed earlier this month. Jonathan Miller's sword-winning mafioso Rigoletto continues its return run, with its original strong cast now conducted by Noel Davies. Coming to a timely revival of David Blake's important dramatic epic, Tossaint: book now for performances on Sept 6,8,14,17 and 23 with Neil

Women (Mon-Wed), using music by Schoenberg. Composer Christopher Benstead and choreographer Robert North have worked with Bridget Riley's first stage designs for their new ballet (Thurs-Sat).

Concise Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Small compartment (7) 2 Sern maindeck (7) 3 Algebraic constant (11) 15 Three R's (7,7,3,10) 16 Liability acceptor (11) 17 Landrace (7) 18 Change by stages (7) 19 Defensible (7) 21 Likely (8) 22 Almyly cool (10) 24 Heighten (7) 25 Courier (9) 28 At juvenile prison (2,7) 30 Waterproof hat (9) 31 Military manoeuvres (9) 32 Harmful (7) 33 Lively party (5,2) 36 Foot arch (6) 37 Confidential (5,4,3) 40 Deafening (12) 42 Stupor (6) 43 Colonist (7) 46 Ill-fated (7) 47 Principal yard support (9) 51 Unhappy (9) 52 Naked (2,7)
- DOWN 1 Dishonesty (11) 2 Lodging place (8,5) 3 Announcer (5) 4 Gluttony (11) 5 Mast platform (7) 6 Unhappy (9) 7 Memory loss (7) 8 Bequeath (5,1,6) 9 Sponged (6) 10 Musical movements (11) 11 Weariness (7) 12 Pause mark (5) 13 Remove a molar (7,1,5)
- 14 Railway official (6,9) 15 Drunken spree (5) 16 Cautery (9) 17 Follower of Marx (7) 18 Cricket team (6) 19 Reverbation (9) 20 Reversing instruments (7) 21 Vital (9) 22 Remain far off (4,2,1,8) 23 Divider (9) 24 Narrow peasant (9) 25 Enriched (7) 26 Interpet incorrectly (7) 27 Circuit breakers (7) 28 Inducement (6) 29 Indecent guest (5) 30 Expend (5)

Two copies of the New Collins Concise English dictionary will be given for the Concise crossword, which will be appearing in the Saturday section from next Saturday.

Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8EZ Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 722.1 up 4.7 FT Gilt: 79.50 down 0.11 FT All Share: 457.31 down 0.83

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.5015 down 85pts Index 84.8 up 0.1 DM 4.0070

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9 1/2 Finance houses base rate 10

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): Am \$419.25 pm \$417.00 close \$417.75

NOTEBOOK

L. M. Ericsson, the Swedish electronics group, reported that net earnings per share rose by a quarter in the first half-year to Skr10.8

BSC could be main beneficiary of second phase British companies poised to win £1bn North Sea oil contracts

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

British industry is poised to win more than £1bn worth of business from a revitalized North Sea oil industry.

Contracts worth more than £2bn are about to be placed as the North Sea industry enters the second phase of its development.

offshore industry's order-book contract. The southern North Sea gasfields are also entering a new phase of development.

contracts to companies with substantial British involvement. will be among the 3,000 world energy delegations from 80 countries attending the Congress.

minister of Energy will also take part in technical discussions. Papers will be presented by 135 oil industry experts, and 53 technical sessions will discuss how the oil industry can help the world economy in the coming years.

Bournes losses put Raybeck into red

By Jonathan Clare

The spiralling losses of Bournes, the Oxford Street department store, forced Raybeck into the red last year.



Raven: Bournes was a millstone for Raybeck.

Raybeck, built up by Mr Ben Raven, its chairman, includes the Lord John, Lady at Lord John and Berkeley chains of shops, lost £1.4m against profits of £215,000 when property profits of £973,000 (£292,000 last time) are stripped out.

Even at the pretax level the company saw a turnaround in its fortunes, as nearly £1m from profits of £507,000 to a loss of £457,000.

Bournes has been a millstone for Raybeck almost since it was acquired for £12m in 1978.

The costs to Raybeck have increased further over the last year because a deal with institutions to buy it fell through at the last minute.

BPCC bid tactic to be examined

By Andrew Cornelius

The Takeover Panel is investigating complaints about the tactics adopted by Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation in its attempt to win control of John Waddington, the Monopoly games company.

The complaints were made by Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank advisers to Waddington. They claim that BPCC representatives had phoned Waddington shareholders claiming that BPCC had a higher percentage of acceptances for its bid than the true figure.

Last night Mr John Higgott, director general of the Panel, said that he was treating the complaints "very seriously."

However, he said that no decision would be taken on whether to call a full meeting of the Panel to investigate the complaint until he had received written evidence from three Waddington shareholders who claim to have been called by BPCC representatives last Thursday evening.

Pound slips further against dollar

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Sterling recovered ground against continental currencies yesterday but was slightly down against a strong United States dollar.

After its bout of weakness because of poor July trade figures, the pound climbed back against the Deutschmark through DM4, although dealers said that covering of short positions accounted for part of the rise.

Sterling closed up just over 3 pence against the French franc at FF12.05, its trade-weighted value was up 0.1 at 84.3.

Although another fall in M1 had been widely expected during the week, the Federal Reserve's action on Thursday to tighten liquidity led to fears that the money supply could be worse than previously expected.

At one stage the dollar moved above DM2.67, but it closed at DM2.6630, and nearly 7 centimes firmer against the French franc at FF8.0125.



The Federal Reserve's action in Thursday pushed up the key Fed funds rate, which at one stage during the week had slipped below 9 per cent.

There was also some firming of Eurodollar interest rates yesterday. Although rates closed below their high points, there were net gains of 1/8 to 1/16 per cent.

The United States basic money supply is estimated to have declined by \$800m in the week ending August 17, according to the average of forecasts of 15 leading economists surveyed by Dow Jones Capital Markets Report.

Hawley's Ashcroft joins board of Miss World

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Michael Ashcroft, chairman of the Hawley Group, is joining the board of the Miss World Group.

Hawley Group owns 22 per cent of Miss World, which was launched on the United Kingdom in April. The company has been building up its stake, fueling City speculation that it is considering a full-scale bid.

Mr Eric Morley, the Miss World chairman, and his wife Mrs Julia Morley, own 51.28 per cent of the company. Mr Morley said: "Mr Ashcroft has a considerable reputation as a successful businessman and entrepreneur and the directors feel he will be a valuable addition to the board."

The Miss World organization yesterday reported pretax profits of £93,300 on a £335,000 turnover for the first six months of the year.

There are no comparative figures because of a change in the end of the financial year.

Most of the group's profits come from the Miss World and Miss UK competitions, which take place in the second half of the year.

According to Mr Watson the caller claimed that BPCC had won acceptances representing 49.1 per cent of Waddington's share capital.

However, BPCC announced yesterday that it is extending its takeover offer for Waddington until September 7. The offer was due to close today.

Meanwhile, Waddington claimed to have the support of more than half of its shareholders against Mr Maxwell.

Waddington said that it had been notified of withdrawals totalling 6.8 per cent of its shares from shareholders who had previously accepted BPCC offer terms.

WALL STREET Recovery after sharp Dow fall

New York (Reuters) - Prices fell sharply in early trading yesterday as investors reacted to news of tighter monetary policy.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 6.20 points to 1178.86 the first 45 minutes of trading but rose 2.35 points. Volume totalled about 12 million shares.

Eastman Kodak was down 3-4 at 65 3/4 after a rise of 1 7/8 yesterday. After the close yesterday Kodak said it would show a profit improvement next year.

International Business Machines was up 1-2 at 49 Lockheed up 3 at 107 General Motors up 1 at 67 7/8 NCR up 1 3/8 at 115 1/4

Atlantic Richfield was 49 3/4 unchanged Allied Corp 50 up 1-8 Lorain Corp 52 1/2 down 1 3/4 American Broadcasting 23 3/8 down 1 5/8 Eastman Kodak 66 3/8 down 1 7/8 Zayre Corp 42 3/4 up 1 1/8 Mobil 32 3/8 unchanged American Telephone and Telegraph 65 1/8 up 3/8 and General Electric 47 1/2 up 1-4.

Mexico signs \$11bn debt pact

By Our Banking Correspondent

The first stage of a \$20bn (£15.3bn) public sector debt rescheduling for Mexico was being signed in New York yesterday between Mexican officials and more than 300 commercial bank creditors.

The signing involved rescheduling of \$11.3bn of debts of the three largest Mexican government agencies, Pemex, the national oil company, Nacional Financiera and United Mexican States.

The debts falling due between August 1982, and December, 1984, are being stretched out over eight years and interest is being charged at 1.875 per cent

over London interbank offers rate (Libor) or 1.75 per cent over the American prime rate.

Similar agreements are expected to be signed over the next month for the other Mexican government agencies, completing one of the largest rescheduling deals yet.

Bankers face further complex negotiations on rescheduling \$14bn of Mexican private sector debts, but the public sector signing is a further indication of progress on resolving Mexico's problems. Its total debts, estimated at about \$92.5bn bridging loan to the Bank for International Settlements and repaid

a similar amount to the US Treasury.

Commercial banks are expected to hold further difficult talks with Brazilian officials in New York next week on a second big rescue package for the country. However, Brazil is now believed to have completed negotiations with the International Monetary Fund on a new economic programme, thus removing one obstacle.

That Brazil will soon sign a new letter of intent with the IMF and this could clear the way for further loan disbursements to Brazil.

Fine Fare's only department store sold

ABF breaks link with its past

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Associated British Foods is selling its only department store, the Welwyn Department Store in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, where the Weston family started to build the retailing empire which now includes the Fine Fare grocery chain.

The department store, which is on a long lease, is going to the John Lewis Partnership.

John Lewis already operates 20 department stores and the Waitrose grocery chain. More than £5m is being paid for the store, it is believed.

headed the company, bought a local, mainly grocery chain which also owned the department store, then about 10 years ago.

The name of the local chain was Fine Fare. According to an ABF director, Mr Wallace Monaghan: "The department store was something of a sentimental link because of all this."

ABF had not planned to sell the store, which has been trading profitably with an annual turnover of £13m. John Lewis made the first approach. Mr Monaghan said: "It obviously makes sense for it to be in a larger department store group where buying power is maximized."

more than 560 outlets, with Mr Garfield Weston chairman of the group.

When the sale goes through in October John Lewis plans to maintain the present staff of 350 full-time and 250 part-time.

While trading continues, the store will undergo extensive refitting. The reshaping is expected to take about a year during which the store will run as a separate company. After that John Lewis expects to take the store and its employees into its partnership scheme.

John Lewis has been expanding its department store chain gradually, buying a Bristol store from Sears Holdings in 1981 and Bonds of Norwich last year. It also opened a John Lewis store at Peterborough last year.

City Editor's Comment Pass go and collect your bid profits

The rules for conducting takeover bids on the London Stock Exchange are, on the whole, both just and sophisticated. They are the product of long years of experience in trying to maintain fair markets and protect the interests of shareholders in the face of boardroom, merchant bank and stockbroker machinations geared solely to winning.

Yet even the best of rules can lead to, and indeed create, bizarre situations. The small shareholder in John Waddington, the paper company, can now reflect that the complications of Monopoly, the boardgame for which Waddington is most famous, are as nothing compared with what he now sees before him.

On the one hand was Mr Robert Maxwell's BPCC, claiming 47 per cent acceptances of his takeover bids at one moment and apparently well on the way to victory, even though a large body of shareholders had publicly committed themselves not to accept.

Then, after much lobbying by the spirited defending interests, institutional shareholders started to withdraw their acceptances.

This, it should be said, they are entitled to do until Mr Maxwell declares his bid unconditional, which requires 50 per cent acceptances - even though the cash alternative to the share-for-share offer has already closed.

Meanwhile, shareholders, large and not so large, are being bombarded by both sides by telephone, meeting and any other known form of communication.

To complicate matters further for the ordinary shareholder, the institutions withdrawing from BPCC's offer are not necessarily declaring their confidence in Waddington, because some are selling in the market to take advantage of a share price higher than BPCC's cash offer, though arithmetically lower

than the current value of its share offer. Mr Maxwell's side, nonetheless, cannot buy these shares because they would have to offer cash to all equal to the highest cash price paid and has already declared its cash bid as final. Mr Maxwell's friends are likewise not allowed to buy in the market and then accept his share offer.

Somebody, somewhere, must therefore have full confidence in Waddington's management and the rapid turnaround in profits on which its defence was based. It is a brave man who will write off the determined Mr Maxwell, but small shareholders who do not want to stick with Waddington, should probably also sell at today's prices.

The immediate lesson is that some takeover bidders are becoming too clever for their own good. The tactic of declaring your takeover bid "final" is a good way to frighten shareholders into accepting, but can come back to haunt you when the stock market is booming, as Mr Gerald Ronson discovered in his quest for UDS.

More generally, it is clear that shareholders should be wary of takeovers of companies just at the point of cyclical recovery in profits.

Here, the bitter lesson came from London Brick, whose offer for Istock Johnson was delayed but finally allowed by a Monopolies Commission investigation.

In the meantime, Istock had recovered so fast that it was not worthwhile for London Brick to buy at the higher price now necessary.

Beware of selling your assets at the bottom of the industrial cycle. Soon, shareholders in bid-for companies may want to remember another useful saw. Beware of accepting other people's expensive shares at the top of a stock market cycle.

Meriden dream ends at last

The Triumph Motor Cycle worker co-operative at Meriden, near Coventry, was finally wound up yesterday. Two hundred creditors including many former employees, approved the appointment of joint liquidators.

The co-operative has debts of £3.8m and assets of no more than £1.2m.

Mr Alastair Jones, one of the liquidators, said that on the

basis of the figures presented at yesterday's two-hour meeting, the many unsecured creditors, who are owed more than £2.5m, would not receive anything from their investment. The only secured creditor, NatWest, is owed £1.3m but how much it will get back depends on the sale of the site.

Triumph directors have received several offers, one believed to be of about £1m

from builders who want to turn the site into a housing estate. The 180 workers at the factory, which has not produced a motor-cycle since February, decided two weeks ago that all hope of salvaging the business had gone and voted to call in a liquidator.

AN OFFER FROM M&G UNIT TRUSTS

Unit trusts provide the best way for most people to share in the rewards and risks of the stock market. They are run by full-time professionals and the risks are minimised by investing in a wide spread of shares, held by a Trustee.

Unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

M&G (who founded unit trusts in Britain) are involved in the management of funds totalling some £1,500 million. The six Funds below may have particular appeal in the present investment climate.

AMERICAN SMALLER COMPANIES FUND: A new Fund with the sole objective of long-term capital growth through investment in companies which are small today but have the potential for growing into the household names of tomorrow. Trustee: Lloyd's Bank Plc. Distribution: 7th March and 7th September, standing on 7th March 1984.

COMPOUND GROWTH FUND: The Fund invests for capital growth in a complex portfolio of shares and companies with strong management, but a proportion may be invested in the United Securities Market (USA). Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. There are no distributions for now (reinvested 20th February 1984).

RECOVERY FUND: Invests for capital growth in companies which have fallen on hard times, a "speculative" policy which has proved very successful in the past. Losses must be accepted when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. Distributions: 20th February and 20th August (next distribution for new investors 20th February 1984).

JAPAN AND GENERAL FUND: Invests in a wide range of Japanese equities, embracing aspects of the economy; the collective long-term capital growth, although its performance may be volatile. Trustee: Lloyd's Bank Plc. Distribution: 20th June and 20th December (next distribution for new investors 15th January 1984).

DIVIDEND FUND: Aims for a yield at least 50% higher than that of the FT Actives All-Share Index. The Fund is suitable for investors needing a high and steadily increasing income with protection of capital growth as well as value. The fund grows dividend yield year on year investment of £1,000 in the Fund (with 1984) was £267. Dividend: Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. Distributions: 15th January and 15th July (next distribution for new investors 15th January 1984).

Table with columns: HEAD THIS TABLE BEFORE INVESTING, COMPOUND GROWTH, DIVIDEND, JAPAN & GENERAL, RECOVERY, GOLD & GENERAL, AMERICAN SMALLER CO'S. Rows include: Launch date and price, Price of 100 units at 24th Aug '83, and estimated current gross yield, % change in FE ordinary value over some period.

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THE M&G GROUP

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Ericsson restores confidence

There has been some nervous American selling of Ericsson shares recently, in the main because the price has fallen about \$10 from the \$62.50 at which the successful New York issue was made in May. But the half-year figures from one of the world's leading electronic engineering companies should restore confidence.

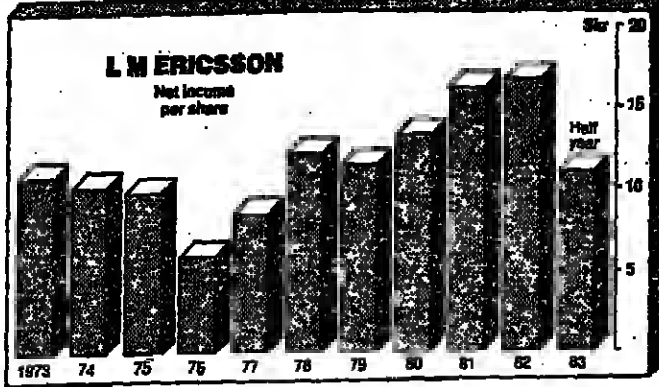
The figures are confused by a change in accounting practice designed to lessen the impact above the line of currency losses caused by rapid inflation in countries such as Mexico. But net earnings per share are about a quarter up at \$1.05, and profits before appropriations and tax was \$17.75m (£6.4m) compared with \$16.76m. The full 1982 income was \$17.01m.

The important point, however, is that parent company income was 40 per cent higher, if the losses incurred by the overseas associated are excluded. The company stresses that this was achieved without much benefit from the 13 per cent devaluation of the Swedish krona at the beginning of the year because currency transactions were hedged forward. (Devaluation gains should begin to show through in the current half.)

The underlying strength of the business is reflected in the facts that both new orders and turnover rose by 28 per cent. Sales in the first half were \$111.5m. For the moment sales are still concentrated in the traditional areas, particularly, of course, the telephone exchanges, and the company stands to gain from the American recovery.

Second half results should be helped by Anaconda-Ericsson, the American cablemaker, and there may be some improvement to Mexico. But Ericsson is now firmly embarked on a longer term strategy which will decide the future of the group. Much will hang on its ability to break into the North American market, a venture in which Ericsson has enjoyed some success already, and it also has ambitions in the highly competitive and diffuse products market.

The irony is that just as the company has embarked on this expansion Swedish investors appear to have lost interest. Ericsson has long commanded a high following in London, but in recent years it has cocooned



on its American investor relations. The interesting aspect of recent New York selling is that few shares few shares have made their way back to Europe. Most have quietly been picked up by other Americans. With net profits of \$17.85m in sight for 1983, they could be right.

Greenwich Cable

Greenwich Cable Communications Half-year to 28.2.83. Pretax loss £161,000 (£48,000). Stated loss 8.64p (1.97p). Turnover £15,000 (£31,000). Net interest dividend nil (nil). Share price 40p, down 6p.

Greenwich Cable Communications' loss looks bad but it was not unexpected and it appears to be in line with the other cable operators, most of which do not publish results. But Greenwich is not achieving the market penetration it had hoped. Only about 800 people have signed for its subscription film service, against an expected 3,000, although the 6,800 users of the communal aerial service provide useful revenue.

The two main problems are the terms of the original pilot licence which allowed only one channel - and the difficulty of getting enough good quality films. It is true that Greenwich expected to make losses for the first three years, but it is too small to sustain the current rate at which it is losing cash.

Better days may be just round the corner now that liberalization of the law allows more channels and satellite broadcasts. But that could be too late for Greenwich. In terms of losses and cash needs, the company probably has a limited

Wagon Finance

Half-year to 30.6.83. Pretax profit £457,000 (£257,000). Stated earnings 0.79p (0.4p). Turnover £10.9m (£2.3m). Net interest dividend 0.625p. Share price 45p Yield 7.3

Disappointment at Wagon Finance's first half performance was amply reflected in the share price falling 9p to 45p. It is clear that the assumptions made about the impact on the company's fortunes of the consumer boom and the relaxation of credit controls were rather optimistic.

Not that the profits are bad. The £457,000 pretax made in the first half of this year was three-quarters up on the comparable period, and when allowance is made for the inclusion in the last year's figures of overprovisions, profits are running above trend.

But the company warns that after increasing new business by 17 per cent, the second half is unlikely to be as good. Against a slowdown in consumer spending, however, should be placed the profits accruing from business already written. Nevertheless, the possibility that interest rates will creep up again is depressing for hire purchase companies, and it is difficult to see that Wagon will return quickly to the profitability of the late 1970s.

Ward Holdings Half-year to 30.6.83. Pretax profit £959,000 (£902,000). Turnover £7.5m (£5.2m). Net interest dividend 1.19p (5m). Share price 75p up 2p. Yield 8%

Investment Trust of Plymouth Half-year to 30.6.83. Net revenue after tax £305,000. Net asset value 136p (115p). Net interest dividend 2.1p gross (same)

life to its present form and a capital reconstruction may not be far away. Mr Jarvis Astaire has just joined the board after buying the balance of the unissued shares which are traded on the Unlisted Securities Market. Mr Astaire has good connections - not least of which is Mr Gerald Roosen, of Heron - and a bid is possible.

The attraction to a predator is that Greenwich's cables are already laid and pass 20,000 homes. This means the cost of connecting subscribers is only about £25 against £300 for operators in new areas. Superficially, the results look awful, but for those prepared to take a view, Greenwich could prove an interesting proposition.

Geevor

It would be an exaggeration to say that there is a battle for control of Geevor, the sole independent Cornish tin mine, but there is definitely competition.

Rio Tinto-Zinc picked up another 50,000 shares yesterday, bringing its total holding to 19.5 per cent, a whither more than Geevor, its arch-rival, for so long the main shareholder.

Since RTZ took over Wheel Jane and almost acquired South Crofty opinion in Cornwall has been convinced that a play for Geevor was likely.

The obstacles were the tin price, the need to overcome local suspicions and convince Whitehall that the industry would benefit, and the sizable blocks of Geevor in other hands.

The price appears much less of a problem now, and the success of Wheel Jane had gone some way to assuaging fears about the interloper.

But other bodies - among them Cliff Oil, Save & Prosper, and M&G - still need to be convinced that RTZ is good for Geevor.

Since Geevor has seemingly lost the will to develop the mine, RTZ is the only alternative. With almost a fifth of the strike in its hands RTZ can strike a deal with other shareholders.

At 128p, well below the peak for 1982/3, the shares look sensitive to any such arrangement.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Highgate and Job Year to 31.3.83. Pretax loss £165,518 (£261,227 loss). Stated loss 17.7p (28.3p). Turnover £5.9m (£7.1m). Net final dividend Nil (same). Share price 70p up 15p

ALFRED WALKER Year to 30.4.83. Pretax profit £51,000 (£106,000). Stated earnings 2.9p (6.1p). Turnover £9.0m (£910,000). Net total dividend 0.75p. Share price 50p up 2p. Yield 2.1%

ROPNER Half-year to 30.6.83. Pretax profit £1.4m (£3.5m). Stated earnings 2.1p (7.5p). Turnover £19.5m (£13.8m). Net interest dividend 1.75p (1.75p). Share price "A" non-voting 96p down 2p. Yield 8.5%

EXETER BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION Half-year to 30.6.83. Pretax profit £227,000 (£391,000). Turnover £15.8m (£15.1m). Net interest dividend 2.5p (2.5p). Share price 130p down 5p. Yield 7.7%

London Gold Futures Market. Gold and silver 16.6 per cent. ave price. Sterling gold 4.6 per cent. ave price. Silver 19.7 per cent. ave price. Platinum 7.5 per cent. ave price. Copper 23.9 per cent. ave price. Zinc 23.9 per cent. ave price. Lead 23.9 per cent. ave price. Tin 23.9 per cent. ave price.

London Commodity Prices. Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per cwt. (see-01 in US\$ per metric ton).

London International Financial Futures. Receipts in £'s from overseas. Month Volume Settlement.

SWISS FRANC. Month Volume Settlement. 12 4592. 12 4592.

SHIBUY STERLING. Month Volume Settlement. 12 4592. 12 4592.

WARRANTY INV MAN JERRY LTD. 21-41 Bristol St, St Helier, Jersey. Jersey. Jersey. Jersey.

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FAMILY MONEY

Gold Where to sell Krugerrands now

As if the estimate release of the gold price to be "talked up" were not of sufficient concern, investors now find themselves caught up in the crossfire of billion dollar dealing. In the last couple of weeks, Customs and Excise officials have been buzzing round City of London financial institutions trying to piece together a jigsaw of smuggling and tax evasion.

Mr Walter Shaw, whose company, Shaw Cavendish, is, he claims, the biggest gold coin dealer in Britain. The company's telephones in Chester have not stopped ringing with inquiries from distressed investors, he says, since he took the step of letting it be known that, for him at least, it was business as usual.

Shaw Cavendish is trading normally in buying and selling gold coins. It remains to be seen whether it might eventually face liquidity problems, but its buy-back policy is in sharp contrast to that of the big London bullion houses.

Sharps Pixley is operating what it calls a "restricted facility". This means it is still selling Krugerrands but will buy them back only from existing customers whose coins Sharps already hold in custody.

At Johnson Matthey, all gold coin dealings with the public are suspended. So if you have a few Krugerrands stashed away - and one recent estimate is that more than four million people in this country do - how could you now realize your investment?

The International Gold Cor-

poration which markets Krugerrands in this country has been busy making soothing noises, saying that it does not see the present situation as any cause for concern for personal investors. The corporation bases this reassuring view on the fact that gold coin investors can continue to buy through either Barclays or NatWest. The 3,000 NatWest branches also buy back Krugerrands.

NatWest's buy/sell spread is somewhat wider than the main bullion houses were quoting before the present problems. Last Wednesday, NatWest was selling Krugerrands at £291.50 plus VAT and buying back at £283.50. But at least it is providing a basis for the gold coin market to continue. Its spread is also rather less savage than that of some Eastern European dealers.

On the same day, the Bullion Company Ltd was quoting a Krugerrand sale price of £296.50 plus VAT, but a buy-back price of only £265.

The message for Krugerrand holders is that unless you desperately need cash now, hold on to your hoard and your coins.

Krugerrands: Some bullion houses have suspended dealings.

The gold price is almost certainly set to rise in the next few months.

Peter Garland

Painless way to raise capital

Small businesses looking for capital to expand and investors seeking a tax shelter, the income are getting together to take advantage of the opportunities offered under the Government's new Business Expansion Scheme.

The small company can get painless equity finance for either start-up or expansion, and investors can benefit from tax relief at the highest rate paid on up to £40,000 worth of investment a year (for this and the next three tax years).

Most of this business has until now been handled by special venture capital funds which have got Inland Revenue approval under the scheme. But more and more people are going it alone - raising equity finance from friends and relatives.

Since the tax relief is crucial, obtaining Inland Revenue approval is the first priority for any person wanting to go it alone.

Nothing to do with financial legislation is ever simple but one good basic guide to what you can do with the BES has been written in a question-and-answer booklet by Mavis Seymour, a tax manager with Stoy Hayward, the accountants, and is available free from the firm.

A qualifying company must be unquoted. If it is traded in the "over the counter" market that is all right, but an Unlisted Securities Market quotation is not. It must trade primarily in Britain. Some businesses, such as investment, financial, consultancy and legal services, will not qualify. The company must be independent with a fully paid-up share capital.

There is absolutely nothing to stop you writing your own business plan. There are no guidelines or rules apart from those regarding the tax qualifications. But common sense alone will tell you that the more presentable, comprehensive and professional the plan looks, the more likely you are to persuade someone to give money.

Not surprisingly, Mavis Seymour thinks it a good idea at least to get an accountant to have a look at the plan and possibly give an opinion. According to the Inland Revenue, you should ask your local tax inspector who should be able to say yes or no. In theory, this is fine. In practice, according to some accountants whose

shares in the company have to be held for a minimum of five years to qualify for the top relief.

Crucial to the deal is the investor's own tax position. Under the rules, an investor must not be "connected with" the company - he or she and family together cannot own more than 30 per cent of the shares or be employed by it. But an investor can be an unpaid director.

And you are not allowed to enter into "reciprocal" agreements whereby two company promoters get tax relief by investing in each other's business.

Where do you find suitable investors? One problem that the budding entrepreneur may face is that shares cannot be advertised for sale - it contravenes the Prevention of Frauds Investment Act.

Another is that any document offering shares to the general public, may be considered a prospectus and therefore would have, by law, to be sent to the Registrar of Companies. It would have to conform to the lengthy and tedious requirements of the 1948 Companies Act.

And there seems to be no hard-and-fast rules on exactly what constitutes an offer of shares to the public. The Department of Trade and Industry says that one-to-one negotiations - between two friends at the golf club, for instance - would definitely not be regarded as a breach of the law.

But what is the situation if you want to canvass a fairly wide circle of friends and associates? How widely can you circulate your scheme?

Mr John Hustler of Peat Marwick Mitchell, the accountants, says: "There is a very fine line between what is a prospectus and what is not. Clear, giving your business idea to half a dozen friends who might be interested in putting up some money" is OK. "I have a few good ideas. This is the kind of figure before things start getting tricky. But there are no rules."

This is clearly a grey area but

Margaret Drummond

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Bank Current account - no interest paid. Deposit accounts - Midland, Barclays, NatWest 6 per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. Lloyds extra interest 9 1/2 per cent. Monthly income account NatWest 8 1/2 per cent. Fixed term deposits 2,500-25,000 - 1.3 and 6 months 5 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Guaranteed Income Bonds. Return paid net of basic rate tax. Higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. 2 & 3 years Canterbury Life 8.5 per cent min investment £1,000. 4 years General portfolio 9-11.5 per cent. Min investment £1,000. 5 years Hull Life 9 per cent. 2-4 years min investment £1,000.

Local authority yearling bonds 12-month fixed rate investments. Interest 10 1/2 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds. Fixed term, fixed rate investments. Interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 year Kingston upon Hull 10 1/2 per cent. 2-4 years Hammersmith and Fulham 10 1/2 per cent. 5 years Kingston upon Hull 11 1/2 per cent. 6-9 years off Ely 11 1/2 per cent. 10 years Worcester 11 per cent. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-830 7401, after 3pm). See also on Prestel no 24808.

Building societies. Ordinary share accounts - 7.25 per cent. Term shares - 1 to 5 years, between 8.5 per cent and 11 per cent over the BSA recommended ordinary share rates depending on the term. Regular savings schemes - 1.25 per cent over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those normally offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers. Finance house deposits (FHD). Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits. Interest paid without deductions of tax. Five-Fifty schemes: 6 months 10 1/2 per cent; 1 year 10 per cent; 2 years 10 1/2 per cent.

Foreign currency deposits. Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Ltd. Reserves 0481 26741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

National Savings 2nd Index-Linked certificates. Minimum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other Index-Linked certificates. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 0.2 per cent per month up to October 1983 paid to new investors. Existing holders receive a 2.4 per cent supplement between October 1982 and October 1983. Cash value of £100 Retirement Issue certificate purchased in August 1978, £173.75 including 6 per cent bonus.

National Savings Bank. Ordinary accounts - interest 3 per cent. First £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account - 11 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000.

National Savings Certificates 26th Issue. Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8.25 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Income Bond. Min investment £2,000 - max. £200,000. Interest - 11 per cent increasing to 11 1/2 per cent from 1 Sept. Variable at six weeks notice - 8 per cent without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 or 6 months notice - check penalties.

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Money Funds. Fund Name Rate Telephone.

Allian Home 9.00 01 838 6070. British Income 8.25 01 838 6099. Brixton 8.25 01 838 6077.

Malvern 8.24 01 439 8234. S & Prosper 8.24 0708 86968. Sun 8.12 01 838 6077.

Simon 7 day 8.87 01 238 0233. Simon 5 day 8.18 01 238 0233. Sun 7 day 8.40 01 238 0232.

Tulip & Riley 7 day 9.13 01 238 0232. Tulip 7 day 9.13 01 238 0232. UO77 day 8.26 0272 73241.

Western Trust 8.25 01 628 3020. 1 month 9.51 0782 28181.

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Martin-Black cuts half-time losses

By Vivien Goldsmith. Martin-Black, the Scottish wire manufacturer, has cut half-time pretax losses from £131,000 in £25,000.

The trading account swung from a profit of £9,000 to a loss of £18,000 but the significant shift in the company's fortunes was the closure of its loss-making Speedwell Wire Company in February. As a result, it cut borrowings and reduced interest payments from £110,000 in 1978 to £100,000 in 1979.

No dividend is being paid. The last time shareholders received any payment was in 1978 when a final net dividend of 1p was declared.

Turnover was down to £3.99m compared with £5.3m for the same period last year.

Funds of £600,000 from the closure of Speedwell will be coming through in monthly stages up to June next year.

Mr James Kennedy, the managing director, said that the wire industry was dogged by over capacity and stiff international competition. "Export markets remain the main problem. Political difficulties in Central America have not helped. That's why we are cautious about the future," he said.

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Munton in new cash call

By Jonathan Clare. Munton Brothers, the textile company which makes shirts for Marks & Spencer, is asking its shareholders for cash for the second time in less than a year.

But it promises that it will not call on them again in the foreseeable future.

It is raising £1.55m to pay off borrowings from the acquisition of a 29.5 per cent stake in John Beales, a fellow marks by Spencer, and to buy a new factory in Antrim, Northern Ireland, for £369,000.

Munton and Beales have been talking about seats on each other's boards and a merger could be possible in the medium-term.

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WALL STREET

AMF Inc 28 1/2. Allied Chem 28 1/2. Amstar 28 1/2. Amstar 28 1/2. Amstar 28 1/2.

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Krugerrands

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Home loans

Letter

True costs of Public Trustee

From The Public Trustee... Sir, in the Family Money section of August 20, you compare the annual administrative charges of the banks, the Public Trustee and Messrs Dearden Farrow...

Marathon sponsor

Nationwide Building Society is sponsoring the London Marathon and will be making cash awards to the first three athletic club teams...

College cover

An insurance policy for students which gives cover at reduced rates for young people who want to insure their belongings during term time is available from the Oxford-based broker E. Harrison.

Smoke cover

Householders who have an insurance claim are often surprised to discover that damage caused by smoke is not included in their cover.



Penny fund

Fortunes have been made and lost in penny shares, according to Mr Freddy Lawson, above, who this week launched his penny share fund...

Abbey looks abroad

Abbey Life's managed fund, one of the biggest in the market at over £84m, is broadening its portfolio by including overseas investment...

Lloyds' best bet

Lloyds Bank is recommending its Worldwide Growth Unit Trust as the best bet for would-be investors...

US-guaranteed

Guaranteed income bonds are always a popular choice with those dependent on return from investments to pay

Business hints

Self employment is an increasingly popular way of avoiding the debt queues but too many small businesses fail within their first five years...

Expatriates help

Going to live or work abroad causes a number of problems, many of them associated with tax. The Inland Revenue has published a booklet...

Aid for newcomers

Under Hamlyn, the City accountancy firm, has published a simple guide to income and capital taxation, designed for

Student accounts

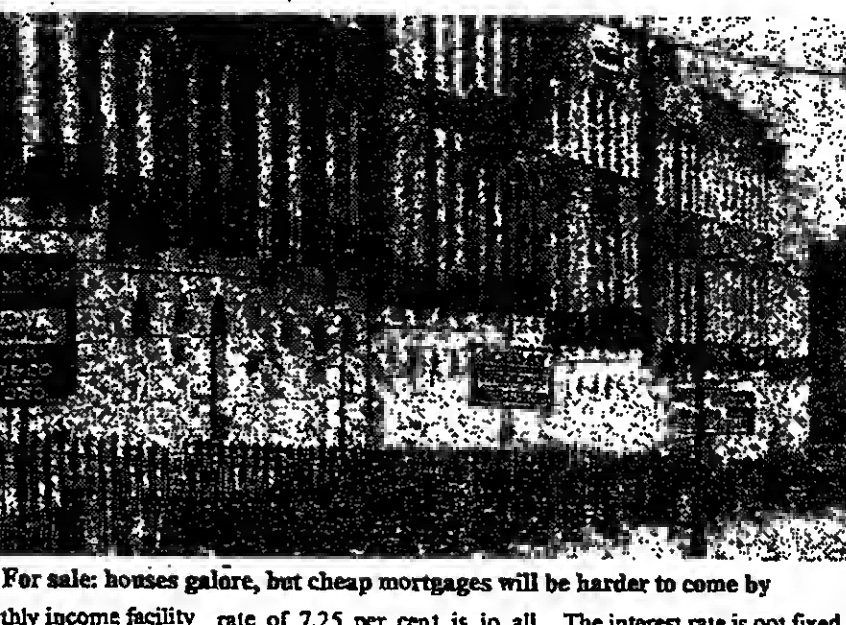
Discount vouchers producing savings of up to £120 are one of the features of the TSB's new Young Adults package...

Building societies

Balancing the borrowers' scales

Halifax and Leeds Permanent building societies are reintroducing differential mortgage rates - the system whereby the more you borrow the higher the interest rate on repayments...

will be offering loans at this price is debatable. But at these prices, money from the American banks which are still in the market - looks relatively cheap at about 12 per cent for loans over £25,000.



For sale: houses galore, but cheap mortgages will be harder to come by

We have got a tranche of £500,000 which is available at 11.25 per cent for people who want home loans of over £25,000

"We have got a tranche of £500,000 which is available at 11.25 per cent for people who want home loans of over £25,000," Mr Paul Marks of Chase de Vere confirmed.

The interest rate is not fixed.

Chase de Vere, 125 Pall Mall, SW1. Telephone 01-930 7242. Lorna Bourke

*Monthly Mortgage Repayments Over 25 Years

Table with columns for Loan £, Interest Rate %, and Monthly Repayment £. Rows include 15,000, 20,000, 25,000, 30,000, 40,000, 50,000, 75,000, and 100,000.

THE COST OF A HOME LOAN

Table with columns for Building Society, Differential mortgage rates, Availability of loans, and Comments. Societies listed include Alliance, Anglia, Abbey National, Leeds, National & Provincial, Woolwich, Halifax, and Nationwide.

Mortgages Tax traps to net house buyers

Nearly everyone knows that the owner-occupied house is one of the sacred cows of the British tax system. It is, however, hedged to by one of the thickest jungles with vicious tax traps designed to catch the lucky and successful...

any treatment if the loan is drawn down and placed on deposit temporarily. But the general rule disallows interest for second mortgages. Bridging loans also attract relief for a period of one year. This period can be extended at the discretion of the Inland Revenue...

Your bank statement on demand

Account holders with Royal Bank of Scotland and its English subsidiary, Williams & Glyn's, will soon be able to get a 'mini bank statement' at the press of a button.

Amex cheques for visitors to the Gulf

Frequent visitors to the Gulf will be pleased to know that travellers cheques in Saudi riyals are now available from American Express offices in Britain.

Advertisement for Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. Features: Still more interest. CHELTENHAM GOLD 8.25% - 11.79% gross. Still no strings. CHELTENHAM GOLD MONTHLY INTEREST. 8.57% net - 12.24% gross. At your branch. Or by post - Free.

Advertisement for Nationwide Building Society. Features: This advertisement is issued in compliance with the Regulations of The Stock Exchange. Nationwide Building Society. Placing of £12,500,000 11per cent Bonds due 3rd September 1984.

Advertisement for Julian Gibbs Associates. Features: AVERAGE Return: 66.62% in one year. In our August 1982 Investment Action Report, we drew our clients' attention to just FOUR recommended unit trusts. According to Planned Savings Statistics (August 1983), these were the performances of our recommended trusts:

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for issue name, price, and yield.

BRITISH FUNDS table listing various funds and their performance metrics.

MEDIUMS table listing medium-term investments and their details.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table listing international investments.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table listing local government investments.

DOLLAR STOCKS table listing investments in dollar-denominated stocks.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table listing bank and discount investments.

BREWERS AND DISTILLERIES table listing investments in the brewing and distilling sectors.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table listing commercial and industrial investments.

A-B table listing various assets and their values.

The stock market ended the second leg of the three-week holiday account on a firm note yesterday.

Government securities had gains of up to 5/4 before last night's American money supply figures.

Index-linked stock again attracted buying demand on the good yields offered and fears over a rising inflation rate.

The brokers denied the claim and says that it sticks by the figures it released in June.

Other leading equities recorded gains of between 5p to 10p enabling the FT 30 share index to close 4.7 up at 722.1.

Tragflager House shares held steady at 177p, despite the company admitting that it had received approaches to buy the Bristol Hotel in Mayfair and the Cunard International at Hammersmith, west London.

A Trafalgar spokesman said: "They are simply approaches and we get a lot of those."

Although the modern Cunard hotel has not been valued the Bristol is thought to be worth about £20.

KCA Drilling steady at 40p, where the management company Roeshold is buying out the KCA International 75 per cent interest.

to see that figure rise substantially.

The benefits, despite the poor interim figures from Drilling,

are cash generated staying in the company. The KCA chairman, Mr Paul Bristol, will have no executive power and money is to be made available so Drilling can expand.

The bank said that although Mr Bristol has a loan note over 18.3 million shares, if he wished to exercise his option he would have to cancel £6.7m of debt.

Although KCA Drilling will start trading immediately with a heavy debt burden of £30m, Chemical Bank said it intends exercising an option to acquire 7 million shares at 37p.

Although an offer document has been issued at 37p to the 25 per cent minority shareholders, none are expected to accept the below market price offer and the company is keen for the shareholders to stay in.

The oil sector bounced up on comment over Thursday's profit figures from Bristol, up 12p to 254p, and ahead of next

MARKET REPORT

Gilts in strong gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Aug 15. Dealings end, Sept 2. Contango Day, Sept 5. Settlement Day, Sept 12.

subsidary from the cash draining parent - is already in for £18m of loans and is prepared.

Speculators in Jackson Oil may be disappointed to know that no new announcements are expected, contrary to market rumour. The shares have run up to 110p since collapsing to 75p on news that two Brunei wells were dry.

Conway brokers Laing and Crutchfield say there is enough cash to finance proven reserves and to cover committed exploration activity. However, negotiations may begin shortly for farming in other companies for prospects in Indonesia.

An announcement is expected in December. Laing consider the present share price about right.

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THE TIMES 1000 table listing top 1000 companies and their market data.

Shipping table listing shipping companies and their performance.

Mines table listing mining companies and their performance.

Financial trusts table listing financial trust investments.

Insurance table listing insurance companies and their performance.

Investment trusts table listing investment trust investments.

Plantations table listing plantation investments.

Miscellaneous table listing various other investments.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Table showing Sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies.

Money Market Rates

Table showing money market rates for Treasury bills and other instruments.

Other Markets

Table showing other market rates including Dollar Spot Rates, Euro-\$ Deposits, and Gold prices.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page.

Australia II is the threat to Peter de Savary's dream

Moment of truth for Victory

From David Miller Newport, Rhode Island

Three years ago Peter de Savary, an entrepreneur, with only superficial knowledge of America's Cup racing...

perseverance with the speed system and postponement of the important selection of the after-gard, the helmsman and the tactician...

De Savary's dream is to win the America's Cup. He has spent millions of dollars on the project...

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Now, deservingly, Victory '83 represents the Royal Australian Yacht Club to the challenger...

Warren Jones, executive manager of Australia II, passed yesterday in the continuing and unresolvable responsibility of counter-punching...

It is a fact that Victory '83 has subsequently raced better, but that could be because any decision on the boat...

The best combination was probably Crabbie and Henry Codrington, but Codrington left early in the year...

Tomorrow's first race is critical. The point for de Savary to ponder, when his beautiful royal blue and gold...

"You cannot parallel our campaign and Peter's. With all our experience, we can make a mistake and sail one bullet at specific targets...

Victory '83 are going to be tough on one mistake and they'll beat you. A month ago we would have had no...

Victory '83 are going to be tough on one mistake and they'll beat you. A month ago we would have had no...

EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker brothers in fine start

By Jenny MacArthur

The brothers Michael and John Whitaker from Yorkshire made a fine start to this weekend's Hickstead meeting...

RUGBY LEAGUE

Rovers give Fulham big incentive

By Keith Macklin

Victory is sweet and Fulham and Kent Invicta search desperately for a taste of it in tomorrow's league game...

ROWING

Moves to halt decline

From Jim Kailton Duisburg, West Germany

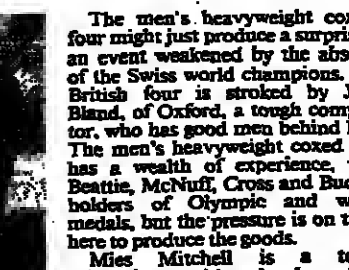
The British crews go on trial tomorrow in the rowing championships...

ROWING

Moves to halt decline

From Jim Kailton Duisburg, West Germany

The British crews go on trial tomorrow in the rowing championships...



Miss Mitchell: feared

together with the men's heavyweight coxless four might just produce a surprise in an event weakened by the absence of the Swiss world champions...

MOTOR RACING

Lotus team lay down challenge

From John Blunden, Zandvoort

The return of the John Player Lotus team to a position of full competitiveness took another major step forward yesterday afternoon...

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IN BRIEF

Cash gets disqualified

Port Chester, (New York), (AP) - Pat Cash of Australia, was thrown out of the men's tennis tournament here for three violations of the professional code of conduct...

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MOTOR RACING

Mansell: third place

The Marlboro McLaren team have rushed through two of their new TAG turbo-powered cars, but one is still only ninety per cent race ready...

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A large table containing financial data, including Unit Trust Prices, change on the week, and various market indices. The table is organized into multiple columns with headers for different categories of funds and their performance metrics.

Cricket: England should be able to enforce follow-on in final Test

Cook demoralizes New Zealand

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent
TRENT BRIDGE: New Zealand, with three first innings wickets in hand, are 253 runs behind England...



Playing and missing: Franklin (left) and his captain, Howarth. (Photographer: Chris Cole).

off bat and pad from a forward defensive push. Before he is finished as a Test player Franklin will, I fancy, be for a long time with great credit...

As at Lord's in the last Test match, yesterday's collapse was caused by Cook, wheeling away from the pavilion end, putting the ball on the ground...

Scorecard

Table with columns for batsmen, runs, and bowlers. Includes sections for England and New Zealand.

Football: Live TV adds interest to new season Survival of the richest in an antiquated system

Football reached a crossroads last season. The authorities, belatedly recognizing the gravity of the overall position, first asked Sir Norman Chester the way to proceed and then promptly ignored it...

Matching up the new faces Man United v QPR Wolves v Liverpool

United's display in the Charity Shield strengthened the belief that they could go all the way. Today they begin in earnest with Wolves in the first round...

Ipswich v Tottenham H Arsenal v Luton Town

With their recent expenditure leaving them an estimated £4.3m in the red, Tottenham had better have a good season...

C Palace v Man City Chelsea v Derby County

Considering the penniless state of Manchester City, their new manager Billy McNeill might find it difficult to make his back into the first dividend...

Middlesex close gap on Essex

By Marcus Williams
LORD'S: Middlesex (23pts) beat Surrey (13) by 103 runs.

Personal landmarks for Kallicharran and Imran

By Peter Marrao
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire (23 points) beat Sussex (5) by 21 runs.

Championship table

Table showing league positions for various cricket teams including Essex, Middlesex, and Surrey.

Captain to the rescue Seven for Underwood

By Richard Streeto
FOLKESTONE: Kent (24pts) beat Gloucestershire (6) by 10 wickets.

Lancs v Derbys Yorkshire v Gloucs Northants v Glamorgan

LANCASHIRE: Lancashire (24pts) beat Derbyshire (10) by 10 wickets.

Athletics Overt loses to Druppers

From Pat Butcher
Brussels
Steve Overt won his private battle with Peter Elliott...

Cycling British girl qualifies

From John Willcockson
Zurich
While Tony Doyle contemplated his professional pursuit...

Swimming Hubble blames British coaches after failure

From Athel Still, Rome
The fifth day at the European Championships proved a bitter-sweet day for British swimmer Hubble...

Golf Big hitter wins Open

By Lewie Mair
England will go into the home international at Royal Portbury next month...

Saturday

Television and radio programmes Edited by Peter Davalle

Sunday

BBC 1
8.25 Open University (until 8.30)
8.50 News at Ten (8.50)
9.15 The Great British Bake Off (8.15)

TV-am
8.25 Good Morning Britain
8.50 News at Ten (8.50)
9.15 The Great British Bake Off (8.15)

ITV LONDON
8.25 LWT Information: What's on in the area, 8.30 Sesame Street
8.50 News at Ten (8.50)

BBC 1
8.25 Open University (until 8.55)
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TV-am
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BBC 2
8.25 Open University (until 8.50)
8.50 News at Ten (8.50)
9.15 The Great British Bake Off (8.15)

CHANNEL 4
8.25 Open University (until 8.50)
8.50 News at Ten (8.50)
9.15 The Great British Bake Off (8.15)

Radio 4
6.25 Shipping, 6.30 News, Farming Today
6.50 In Perspective, Religious affairs, 6.55 Weather, Travel

Radio 3
7.55 Weather, 8.00 News, 8.05 Aubade German, Brahms, Liszt

TONIGHT'S PROM
7.30 Mozart, Symphony No 41 (Jupiter)
8.00 Weber, Konzertstücke in F minor

Radio 1
6.25 Shipping, 6.30 News, Farming Today
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SAC
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CENTRAL
8.50 News at Ten (8.50)
9.15 The Great British Bake Off (8.15)

ANGLIA
8.50 News at Ten (8.50)
9.15 The Great British Bake Off (8.15)

TYNE TEES
8.50 News at Ten (8.50)
9.15 The Great British Bake Off (8.15)

BORDER
8.50 News at Ten (8.50)
9.15 The Great British Bake Off (8.15)

YORKSHIRE
8.50 News at Ten (8.50)
9.15 The Great British Bake Off (8.15)

Advertisement for Bell's Scotch Whisky featuring a bottle and the text 'SCOTLAND'S NUMBER ONE QUALITY SCOTCH WHISKY'.

